

Syllabus

Course Description

The course offered this quarter is the first part of a two-part sequence. Students may take the first part without taking the second; but only students enrolled in the first part may take the second part for credit. The Winter quarter will furnish an overview of Frege's philosophy, with special attention to Frege's conception of logic, his distinctions between concept and object and sense and reference, his critique of psychologism, his context principle, and his attempt to demonstrate that mathematical truths are analytic a priori. At the end of the Winter quarter we will also look very briefly at some related aspects of the philosophy of Bertrand Russell, in particular his logical atomism, his account of the unity of the proposition, and his theory of judgement. The materials covered in the Winter quarter, taken as a whole, are meant to provide an overview of everything you need to know in order to read Wittgenstein's *Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus*. The Spring quarter will be devoted to a careful reading of that text and an examination of some of the central disputes in the secondary literature concerning it.

Since the ultimate aim of the course this quarter is to prepare students for the topics that will be taken up next quarter, the course will involve an extremely selective examination of topics from Frege's philosophy: namely, those that play a central role in the *Tractatus*.

The course this quarter will be devoted to a serious introduction to Frege's philosophy, beginning with a brief look at its roots in the philosophy of Kant. No prior knowledge of Frege's work is required. However, at least some background and familiarity with basic topics in analytic philosophy is a prerequisite and at least one prior course in formal logic is highly recommended.

Course Requirements

The only requirement for the course will be a seminar-length paper due at the end

of the quarter.

Books

The following books are for sale at the Seminary Co-op and are *required* for the course:

Cora Diamond, *The Realistic Spirit*
Gottlob Frege, *The Foundations of Arithmetic*
Bertrand Russell, *Theory of Knowledge : The 1913 Manuscript*
Joan Weiner, *Frege*
Ludwig Wittgenstein, *Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus*

The following books are for sale at the Seminary Co-op and are *not* required for the course:

Michael Dummett, *Frege : Philosophy of Language*
Anthony Kenny, *Frege*
Bertrand Russell, *The Principles of Mathematics*

The following books are for sale at the Seminary Co-op and are also *not* required for the course, but are available for those who have the benefit of a reading knowledge of German:

Gottlob Frege, *Briefwechsel*
Gottlob Frege, *Funktion, Begriff, Bedeutung*
Gottlob Frege, *Grundlagen der Arithmetik*
Gottlob Frege, *Logische Untersuchungen*
Gottlob Frege, *Schriften zur Logik und Sprachphilosophie. Aus dem Nachlaß.*

Xeroxed Readings

There are five course packets (labeled A through E) of readings for sale in the Classics Building Copy Center and most of the readings for the course are to be found in them. The final five pages of this syllabus provide the tables of contents of each of these course packets. The course packets have been divided up so that anyone who possesses one or more of the relevant books (all of which are presently out-of-print) may avoid needless expense.

The contents of these course packets also furnish a detailed indication of the topics and texts to which the course will be devoted.

Course Packet A

(Selections from the Writings of Kant and of Frege)

1. Immanuel Kant, excerpt from *Logic*
2. Immanuel Kant, excerpt from *Prolegomena*
3. Immanuel Kant, excerpt from *Critique of Pure Reason* (Norman Kemp Smith pp. 92-103, A50/B74 – A66/B91)
4. Gottlob Frege, excerpt from *Begriffsschrift* (Introduction, Contents, §§1-4)
5. Gottlob Frege, “On the Scientific Justification of a Conceptual Notation”
6. Gottlob Frege, Letter to David Hilbert, Dec. 27, 1899
7. Gottlob Frege, Letter to Edmund Husserl, May 24, 1891
8. Gottlob Frege, Letter to Edmund Husserl Oct. 30-Nov. 1, 1906
9. Gottlob Frege, Letter to Philip E. B. Jourdain, no date
10. Gottlob Frege, Letter to Anton Marty, August 29, 1882
11. Bertrand Russell, Letter to Gottlob Frege, June 16, 1902
12. Gottlob Frege, Letter to Bertrand Russell, June 24, 1902
13. Gottlob Frege, Letter to Bertrand Russell, June 29, 1902
14. Gottlob Frege, Letter to Bertrand Russell, July 28, 1902
15. Gottlob Frege, Letter to Bertrand Russell, Dec. 28, 1902
16. Gottlob Frege, Letter to Bertrand Russell, Nov. 13, 1904
17. Gottlob Frege, Letter to Bertrand Russell, Dec. 12, 1904

Course Packet B

(Selections from Gottlob Frege, *Collected Papers* and from Gottlob Frege, *The Basic Laws of Arithmetic*)

18. "Function and Concept"
19. "On *Sinn* and *Bedeutung*"
20. "On Concept and Object"
21. Review of Edmund Husserl, *Philosophie der Arithmetik*
22. "Foundations of Geometry I"
23. "Foundations of Geometry II"
24. "What is a Function?"
25. Introduction to *The Basic Laws of Arithmetic* (Montgomery Furth, tr.)

Course Packet C

(Selections from Gottlob Frege, *Posthumous Writings*)

26. “Logic I (1879-1891)”
27. “Boole’s Logical Calculus and the Concept-Script”
28. [Dialogue with Pünjer on Existence]
29. “Logic II (1897)”
30. “17 Key Sentences on Logic”
31. “On Schoenfliess: *Die Logischen Paradoxien der Mengenlehre*”
32. “Introduction to Logic”
33. “A Brief Survey of My Logical Doctrines”
34. “Logic in Mathematics”
35. “My Basic Logical Insights”
36. [Notes for Ludwig Darmstaedter]
37. “Sources of Knowledge of Mathematics and the Mathematical Natural Sciences”

Philosophy 34100 : Early Analytic Philosophy-I: Frege

Course Packet D

(Secondary Literature on Frege)

1. Tyler Burge, “Frege on Knowing the Third Realm”
2. Cora Diamond, “Inheriting from Frege”
3. Gareth Evans, *Varieties of Reference*, chap.. 1
4. Peter Geach, “Saying and Showing in Frege and Wittgenstein”
5. Warren Goldfarb, “Frege’s Conception of Logic”
6. Jean van Heijenoort, “Logic as Calculus and Logic as Language”
7. Michael Kremer, “Judgment and Truth in Frege”
8. Michael Kremer, “Sense and Meaning: The Origins and Development of the Distinction”
9. John McDowell, “On the Sense and Reference of a Proper Name”
10. John McDowell, “Truth-Value Gaps”
11. John McDowell, “*De Re* Senses”
12. Thomas Ricketts, “Frege, the *Tractatus*, and the Logocentric Predicament”
13. Thomas Ricketts, “Objectivity and Objecthood: Frege’s Metaphysics of Judgment”
14. Thomas Ricketts, “Truth, Thoughts, and Objectivity in Frege”

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Course Packet E

(Gottlob Frege, *Logical Investigations*)

1. “The Thought”
2. “Negation”
3. “Compound Thoughts”