

Frege
PHIL 53000
Spring Quarter 2007

Instructor: Michael Kremer

My office is 224 Stuart Hall. I will hold office hours Wednesdays 2:00-4:00; or by appointment. My office phone is 834-9884; my e-mail address is kremer@uchicago.edu. The class meets Mondays 9:00-11:50.

Texts: The following books are available at the Seminary Co-op.

Gottlob Frege, Foundations of Arithmetic (tr. Austin).

Michael Beaney (ed.), The Frege Reader.

Michael Dummett, Frege: Philosophy of Language (2nd ed.)

Tyler Burge, Truth, Thought, Reason: Essays on Frege

Joan Weiner, Frege Explained.

These texts will be supplemented with primary and secondary sources made available through the course documents section of the chalk website for the course.

Requirements: I expect you to come to class prepared, having done the assigned reading from the primary sources and at least some of the secondary sources beforehand. Classes will be a mixture of lecture and discussion; attendance and participation are required. Written work will consist of a single term paper due at the end of the quarter.

Auditors: Auditors should come to class prepared like everyone else. You may not audit this class unless you are prepared to do the work of participating in the seminar.

Syllabus

We will read Frege's major works in chronological order. Secondary sources will be provided to accompany each set of readings but the focus of lectures and discussion will be the primary texts. Here is a rough schedule of the topics we will discuss:

3/26 Introductory Lecture

4/2 Begriffsschrift 1

4/9 Begriffsschrift 2

4/16 Grundlagen 1

4/23 Grundlagen 2

4/30 I will be out of town. Tom Lockhart will present some of his work on Frege. The title is "Ricketts and McDowell on Objecthood in Frege."

5/7 "Function and Concept," "On Concept and Object"

5/14 "On Sense and Meaning" 1

5/21 "On Sense and Meaning" 2

5/28 Grundgesetze

6/4 (Monday of 11th week) Logical Investigations

Reading assignment for April 2 and April 9

Primary Sources:

“On the Scientific Justification of a Begriffsschrift” – chalk
Begriffsschrift (Conceptual Notation) – selections in Beaney, The Frege Reader, 47-78; also selections on chalk (sections 13, 23, 24)
“Letter to Anton Marty,” Beaney, The Frege Reader, 79-83
“Boole’s Logical Calculus and the Begriffsschrift” – chalk

Secondary Sources:

Joan Weiner, Frege Explained, chapters 1-3
Michael Dummett, Frege: Philosophy of Language, chapters 1-3

April 2:

Michael Kremer, “Sense and Meaning: The Origins and Development of the Distinction,” sections I, pp. 1-14 – chalk
Michael Beaney, The Frege Reader, Appendix 2, “Frege’s Logical Notation,” 376-382
Jonathan Barnes, “What is a Begriffsschrift” – chalk
Cora Diamond, “What Does a Concept-Script Do?” – chalk
Jean van Heijenoort, “Logic as Calculus and Logic as Language” – chalk
Volker Peckhaus, “Calculus ratorcinator versus characteristica universalis? The two traditions in logic, revisited” – chalk
Risto Vilkkko, “The Reception of Frege’s Begriffsschrift” – chalk
Hans Sluga, “Frege against the Booleans” – chalk
Danielle MacBeth, “Reading Begriffsschrift” – chalk
Peter Sullivan, “Frege’s Logic” sections 1-3, pp. 659-701 – chalk

April 9:

Michael Kremer, “Sense and Meaning: The Origins and Development of the Distinction,” sections II, pp. 14-21 – chalk
Peter Geach, “Review of Frege: Philosophy of Language” – chalk
Peter Geach, “Names and Identity” – chalk
Michael Dummett, “Simple and Complex Predicates” – chalk
Gordon Baker, “‘Function’ in Frege’s Begriffsschrift: Dissolving the Problem” – chalk
Richard Mendelsohn, “Frege’s Begriffsschrift Theory of Identity” – chalk
Robert May, “Frege on Identity Statements,” sections 1-5, pp. 1-24 – chalk
George Boolos, “Reading the Begriffsschrift” – chalk