

# Early Analytic Philosophy: Frege, Russell and Wittgenstein

Simon Fraser University

Fall 2017

## Course Instructor:

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Office Hours and Location: Mondays 2-4pm and by appointment in WMC 5605

## Course Description

This course will be an in-depth study of some important texts by the founders of Analytic Philosophy: Gottlob Frege, Bertrand Russell and Ludwig Wittgenstein.

This is an advanced undergraduate course. It will be demanding and fast-paced. Students should check with the instructor that they have the required background prior to enrolling in the course.

## Course Readings

Readings will be made available on Canvas.

## Evaluation

*Grading:* I adhere to a blind grading policy. So when you submit your assignments, please only include your student number.

1. Term test: 40%. In class on June 6, 2018
  - *Instructions:* This will be an in-class midterm consisting in short-answer questions. A midterm study guide will be distributed a week ahead of time.
2. Term Paper: 60%. Due June 22, 2018
  - You will be required to write a term paper (approx. 1500 words). Paper topics will be distributed in class. Students will also have the option of selecting their own topic in consultation with the instructor. Paper submission will be on Canvas.

## Course Schedule

1. Frege: The Project

*Reading:* Frege, *Foundations of Arithmetic* (Introduction, §§1-28)

*Supplementary:* Dummett, *Frege: Philosophy of Mathematics* (Chs. 1 and 2)

2. Frege: Numbers and Concepts

- Reading:* Frege, *Foundations of Arithmetic* (§§29-54)  
*Supplementary:* Dummett, *Frege: Philosophy of Mathematics* (Ch. 8)
3. Frege: Definition of Number and Russell's Paradox
- Reading:* Frege, *Foundations of Arithmetic* (§§55-83)  
*Supplementary:* Dummett, *Frege: Philosophy of Mathematics* (Chs. 13-14; 16)
4. Frege: On Sense and Reference I
- Reading:* Frege, 'Function and Concept' and 'On Sense and Reference'  
*Supplementary:* Dummett, *Frege: Philosophy of Language* (Ch. 5, without Appendix); Dickie 'Informative Identities in the *Begriffsschrift* and "On Sense and Reference"'
5. Frege: Indexicals
- Reading:* Frege, 'The Thought'  
*Supplementary:* Perry, 'Frege on Demonstratives'; Evans 'Understanding Demonstratives'
6. Russell: On Denoting
- Reading:* Russell, 'On Denoting'  
*Supplementary:* Evans, *Varieties of Reference* (Ch. 2); Makin, *The Metaphysicians of Meaning* (Chs. 1 and 2)
7. Russell: Acquaintance
- Reading:* Russell, 'Knowledge by Acquaintance and Knowledge by Description'  
*Supplementary:* Evans, *Varieties of Reference* (Ch. 2); Amijee, 'The Role of Acquaintance in Russell's Theory of Knowledge'; Wishon, 'Russellian Acquaintance and Frege's Puzzle'
8. Russell: Multiple Relation Theory of Judgement
- Reading:* Russell, *Theory of Knowledge* (selections); *Philosophy of Logical Atomism* (selections)  
*Supplementary:* Pincock, 'Russell's Last (and Best) Multiple-Relation Theory of Judgement'
9. Russell: Logical Atomism
- Reading:* Russell, *The Philosophy of Logical Atomism* (Lectures 1-2)  
*Supplementary:* Klement, 'Russell's Logical Atomism'
10. Wittgenstein: Picture Theory
- Reading:* Wittgenstein, *Tractatus* (1-5.143)  
*Supplementary:* Anscombe, *Introduction to Wittgenstein's Tractatus*
11. Wittgenstein: Analysis
- Reading:* Wittgenstein, *Tractatus* (1-5.143)  
*Supplementary:* Wittgenstein, *Tractatus* (Russell's Introduction)

## Course Business

1. *Attendance and Tardiness.* You will not be penalized for missing class. However, given the nature of this course, missing class is sure to adversely affect your grade. Arriving late in class is disruptive and distracts both the instructor and other students. Make an effort to arrive on time, and let your instructor know if you are going to be late.
2. *Laptops.* Laptops are not permitted in class.
3. *Plagiarism and Academic Misconduct.* Simon Fraser University takes plagiarism (and academic misconduct more generally) very seriously. You are responsible for knowing what plagiarism is, and also for knowing the particular plagiarism penalties. Plagiarism includes (but is not limited to) the use of a thinker's ideas or words without proper citation; the purchase of assignments; the use of internet resources without proper citation; and the submission of work written (in whole or in part) by another. Penalties for plagiarism range from a zero on the assignment to suspension from the university. You can acquaint yourself with SFU's policies over plagiarism on this website: <http://www.sfu.ca/students/academicintegrity/resources.html>
4. *How to Avoid Plagiarising:* Most students plagiarise because they believe themselves to be without options. But no student will ever be without options in this course. If you find yourself in trouble, and tempted to cheat, contact me *immediately*. If you haven't *yet* cheated, a solution can always be found.
5. *Late Penalties.* This will be a challenging and fast-paced course. It is highly recommended that you attend every class meeting and get your work in on time. The late penalty on the term paper is set at 1/3 of a letter grade per day, to a maximum of three days (this includes weekends/holidays), unless accompanied by a documented medical explanation. Any work outstanding beyond this point will receive a grade of 0.
6. *Your Course Contact.* I am your primary contact for this course. Course-related emails must have "PHIL357" somewhere in the subject line. I will not answer emails that ask for information readily available through on either Canvas or the course syllabus, so it is always a good idea to begin by checking those two places. Also, I recommend that if you have a substantive philosophical question, you come to my office hours or set up an appointment rather than send me an email. I will respond to all other emails within two working days.
7. *Special Accommodations.* I am more than happy to assist with special accommodations for students registered with accessibility services. If you are registered with accessibility services, please don't hesitate to have your accessibility services representative get in touch with me. Any student with a documented disability who requires academic accommodation should contact the Centre for Students with Disabilities as soon as possible. More information is available at <http://www.sfu.ca/students/disabilityaccess.html>.