Course Description
Our focus will be on the rise of so-called analytic philosophy in the early 20th Century, though we will in fact be reading some work from late in the 19th Century. The readings will be drawn from foundational works by Frege, Moore, Russell, and the early Wittgenstein. These tend to be primarily concerned with issues in logic, metaphysics, and the philosophy of language, and so we shall as well: there are also plenty of epistemological issues to engage. We will pursue the readings mostly, though not entirely, in historical order.

Course Requirements
I expect that as a matter of course in a graduate class you will have done the reading, arrive at class prepared to discuss it, and actually enter into the discussion. The main thing on which you will be evaluated is your written work: two papers in the 8-10 page range, due October 21 and December 17 respectively. In borderline cases, useful class participation (or the absence of it) will determine which way the course grade goes. These papers should be critical discussions of some of the material covered in the appropriate interval. I would be happy to discuss prospective topics with you, and read and comment on drafts of papers, assuming enough lead time for the conversation or comments to matter. The phrase “8-10 page range” is a guideline rather than a demand by the way.

Anyone with a disability requiring special arrangements should see me as soon as possible. Nowadays all instructors are advised to include the following in syllabi for all courses. Plagiarism, turning in work that is not entirely your own, is a serious form of academic dishonesty whose discovery will be rewarded with a failing grade. You are free, indeed encouraged, to discuss the various topics we take up with others and read as widely as you like, from traditional sources or online, but these must be properly cited and your written work must be your own. See http://www.purdue.edu/ODOS/osrr/integrity.htm for a more complete characterization of academic dishonesty.

In the event of a major campus emergency, course requirements, deadlines and grading percentages are subject to changes that may be necessitated by a revised semester calendar or other circumstances beyond the instructor’s control. I expect to convey any revisions that become necessary via the course email distribution list maintained by the university.
Course Schedule
The following is subject to revision for various reasons, but represents what I expect we’ll do. ‘FR’ = *The Frege Reader*, ‘CP’ = course pack, for which there will be no overall pagination, and ‘TLP’ = *Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus*, where the entries are paragraph numbers. There are some remarks about further reading at the end.

Aug. 26 – first meeting, so no assigned readings

Sept. 2 – excerpts from Frege, Part I of the *Begriffsschrift*, FR 47-74 (1879).  [Appendix 2 to FR, pp. 376-85, is a guide to the notation, while pp. 75-78 summarize the analysis of mathematical induction in Part III that is not included in the selection.]


Sept. 16 – Frege, “Function and Concept,” FR 130-48 (1891); excerpt from “On Sinn and Bedeutung,” FR 151-59 (1892).  [No permanent damage will result from reading the entire article, but don’t expect to discuss it in class.]

Sept. 23 – Frege, “Comments on Sinn and Bedeutung,” FR 172-80 (1891 or 1892); letter to Husserl, FR 149-50 (1891); letter to Russell, FR 255-57 (1902); selection from the Frege-Russell correspondence, CP (1904; there is a different excerpt from Frege’s letter in FR 290-2) [the preceding relatively brief comments are to facilitation further discussion of Sinn and Bedeutung.];  “On Concept and Object,” FR 181-93 (1892).


Oct. 14 – No class: you have this week to work on your papers that are due Oct. 21.  I will be in my office from 2:30-5:20 if you would like to meet to discuss your paper. By the way, after a week off, I do expect you to be prepared for the Oct. 21 meeting.

Oct. 21 – continuation of discussion of the theory of descriptions; Russell, “Propositional Functions” and then “Descriptions,” CP (1919) may be a useful review of the view.

FIRST PAPER DUE


Nov. 4 – Russell, “The Philosophy of Logical Atomism,” CP, 203-81 (this is long but partly covers by now familiar ground).

Nov. 18 – Wittgenstein, TLP 1-4.53 (Originally published 1921, first English ed. 1922).

Nov. 25 – no class, Thanksgiving break


Dec. 9 – Catching up and/or reflections on our tour.

Minimalist Further Reading List
There is a large and growing secondary literature, including various handbooks and companions. Fond of the struggle with primary sources here and elsewhere, I’m not assigning any of it. Articles are too numerous, to put it mildly, to mention here.


For Frege, the main books and collections through 1997 are noted in the third appendix to The Frege Reader.

For Russell, the Library of Living Philosophers volume The Philosophy of Bertrand Russell (ed. P. A. Schilpp) may be useful, along with A. J. Ayer’s Russell and Moore: The Analytic Heritage and Peter Hylton’s Russell, Idealism, and the Emergence of Analytic Philosophy. Russell’s own The Problems of Philosophy, published in 1912, is a very useful if elementary introduction to his thought.

For Wittgenstein, Anthony Kenny’s Wittgenstein and P. M. S. Hacker’s Insight and Illusion and Wittgenstein’s Place in Twentieth-Century Analytic Philosophy are general; two classics and one more recent treatment of the Tractatus are G. E. M. Anscombe’s An Introduction to Wittgenstein’s Tractatus, James Griffin’s Wittgenstein’s Logical Atomism, and H. O. Mounce’s Wittgenstein’s Tractatus. Roger M. White’s recent Wittgenstein’s Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus was well-reviewed, I’ve not yet seen it so have no view of my own.