

## Philosophy 427: Twentieth Century Anglo-American Philosophy Scott Soames

A study of the growth and development of philosophical analysis in the first 50 years of 20th century British, American, and German analytic philosophy. Topics discussed: the early analytic paradigms of Gottlob Frege, G.E. Moore and Bertrand Russell, the logical atomism of middle Russell and early Wittgenstein, the rise and fall of logical positivism and the post-positivist perspective of Quine. In addition to tracing changes in the nature of analysis as a method, we will chart the development of major metaphysical, epistemological, and ethical views of leading figures of the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

### Reading

In addition to a number of articles on reserve, the following books have been placed on reserve for the course: (Starred books have been ordered and should be available at the book store.)

A.J. Ayer	* <u>Language Truth, and Logic</u>
	* <u>Logical Positivism</u>
Gottlob Frege	<u>Foundations of Arithmetic</u>
G.E. Moore	<u>Philosophical Papers</u>
_____	<u>Philosophical Studies</u>
_____	<u>Some Main Problems of Philosophy</u>
_____	<u>Ethics</u>
_____	<u>Principia Ethica</u>
W. V. O. Quine	* <u>From a Logical Point of View</u>
Bertrand Russell	* <u>Introduction to Mathematical Philosophy</u>
_____	* <u>Our Knowledge of the External World</u>
_____	<u>Logic and Knowledge</u>
_____	<u>Philosophical Essays</u>
_____	<u>The Philosophy of Logical Atomism</u>
S. Soames	* <u>Philosophical Analysis in the Twentieth Century, Vol. 1</u>
_____	* <u>The Analytic Tradition in Philosophy, Vol. 1</u>
_____	* <u>The Analytic Tradition in Philosophy, Vol. 2</u>
W. D. Ross	<u>The Right and the Good</u>
_____	<u>The Foundations of Ethics</u>
Moritz Schlick	<u>Problems of Ethics</u>
*L. Wittgenstein	* <u>Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus</u>

### Required Work

Two 1500 word analyses of selected philosophical texts (1 after 4 weeks, 1 after 11 weeks)

One mid-term quiz (in class, with notes, in the 8<sup>th</sup> week)

One end-of-term quiz (in class, with notes, on the last Friday of the term)

One 2000 - 3000 word term paper (which can, but need not be an extension of an analysis)

### Grading

The term paper constitutes 40 % of the final grade, the quizzes and analyses 20% each – with your lowest quiz or analysis excluded in computing the final grad for the course. Analyses *submitted on time* that receive low grades can be rewritten once -- after consultation and within one week of their return -- for a maximum grade of B+. Deadlines will be enforced by marking down late papers 1/3 of a grade point (e.g. from B+ to B, B to B-, or B- to C+) for each 24 hour-period of lateness.

### Office Hours

T, 11:30-12:30; F 11:30 – 12:30

## Schedule

### 1. **Gottlob Frege: Logic, Mathematics, and Philosophy**

What is the source of mathematical knowledge? What are numbers?

#### Reading

Frege Foundations of Arithmetic, sections 46, 56, 58, 60-66, 79-81

Soames ATP1: chap 1, sections 1, 2, pp. 20-24, 30-34 of sec 4, secs. 5.1, 5.3 + pp. 54-56

Also, chap 2, sections 8 and 9 through (pp. 114-125)

### 2. **The Revolt of G.E. Moore and Bertrand Russell Against Absolute Idealism**

- a. Becoming G.E. Moore
- b. Russell's search for a substitute for religion
- c. Against the doctrine that Truth is One

#### Reading

Soames. ATP1: chapter 3, sections 1,2, 5,; chapter 7, section 1; chapter 9 sec 1.1

#### Recommended but not recommended but not required

Moore "The Refutation of Idealism" in Philosophical Studies

Russell "The Monistic Theory of Truth" in Philosophical Essays

Moore "External and Internal Relations" in Philosophical Studies

Pigden "Russell's Moral Philosophy" Stanford Online Encyclopedia of Philosophy

### 3. **G.E. Moore: The Dawn of Analysis**

- a. The "external world"
- b. The job of philosophy
- c. Introduction of sense data
- d. 'Good' and the naturalistic fallacy

#### Reading

Moore "A Defense of Common Sense," "Proof of an External World," Philosophical Papers, chapters 5,6 of Some Main Problems of Philosophy, (chapter 1 recommended)

Moore Principia Ethica, Preface to the 1<sup>st</sup> edition; sections 1 – 14 chapter 1; sections 86 and 87 chapter 5; sections 110 and 113 chapter 6

Soames Chapter 5 of ATP1

### 4. **Bertrand Russell: Logical Constructions, Reduction, Logical Form**

- a. Extreme realism and the theory of descriptions
- b. Logicism: the paradigm of reduction
- c. Verification and the foundations of knowledge
- d. Reduction and the "external world"

#### Reading

Russell "Descriptions," chapter 16 of Intro to Math. Philosophy

----- "Knowledge by Acquaintance and Knowledge by Description," on JSTOR; on reserve

Soames ATP1: chapter 8, sections 1, 2.1, 2.2, 3, 4.1, 4.2, 4.3

Russell Introduction to Mathematical Philosophy, chapters 1 – 3, and 13.

Soames ATP1: chapter 10 section 2, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4

Russell Our Knowledge of the External World, pp. 70 – 119

Soames ATP1: chapter 11

#### Recommended but not required

Russell "On Denoting," Mind, 1905, on JSTOR: Philosophy of Logical Atomism chap 8

Soames ATP1: section 9 of chapter 12

## 5. Logical Atomism

- a. The Metaphysics of Wittgenstein's *Tractatus*
- b. Representational Thought and Language: The single great problem of philosophy
- c. The Tractarian Test of Intelligibility

### Reading

Wittgenstein Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus

Soames chapters 1, 2 *except for section 4.5*, chapter 3 sections 3.1, 3.2, 3.5, sections 3, 4, and chapter 4 of ATP.  
 "Propositions, the *Tractatus* and The Single Great Problem of Philosophy"  
 website (Recommended)

## 6. The Rise and Fall of Logical Positivism

- a. The positivist's enterprise
- b. The linguistic theory of the necessary and the apriori
- c. The empiricist theory of meaning and its problems
- d. Emotivism in Ethics
- e. Normative Ethics in the Era of Emotivism

### Reading

Ayer Language, Truth, and Logic, Preface, Introduction to 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition + chaps 1,4

Hempel "The Empiricist Criterion of Meaning," in Logical Positivism

Church Review of Language Truth and Logic, *Journal of Symbolic Logic*, Vol. 14, 1949 pp. 52-3, JSTOR and on reserve

Soames APT2: chapter 10 sections 2, 3.2, and 4; also chapter 11

## 7. Ethics, Meta-Ethics, and Emotivism

Ayer Language Truth and Logic, chapter 6

Stevenson "Emotive Meaning of Ethical Terms," in Logical Positivism

Ross The Right and the Good

Soames ATP2: chapters 13, 14.

### Recommended but not required

Schlick The Problems of Ethics

Soames. ATP2: chapter 12

## 8. Holistic Verificationism: W. V. O. Quine

- a. The attack on analyticity and the linguistic theory of the apriori.
- b. Rejection of positivism and reductionism
- c. Reformulating empiricist principles in holistic terms
- d. Criticism of Quine's positive views

### Reading

Soames Secs 2, 3 of "The Place of Quine in Analytic Philosophy" web site

Quine, "Two Dogmas," "On What There Is" From a Logical Point of View

Soames chapters 4 and 6 of ATP Vol 3

Harman "Meaning and Theory," *Southwest Journal of Philosophy*, 1979, IX, 9-20  
 (Recommended but not required)