

**Philosophy 388: Analytic Philosophy**  
Fall 2017

*Updated 1 October 2017*

Instructor: Ben Caplan  
Time: T Th 9:30 AM – 10:45 AM  
Location: 3097 Wescoe Hall  
Office: 3079 Wescoe Hall  
Office hours: ~~T Th 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM~~  
~~T 2:30 PM – 3:30 PM~~  
T Th 12:15–12:45 PM, 2:30–3:30 PM  
or by appointment  
Email: caplan@ku.edu

**Course description**

This course will concentrate on certain developments in metaphysics and philosophy of language in the period 1879–1913. We will read work by Gottlob Frege (1848–1925), Emily Elizabeth Constance Jones (1848–1922), Alexius Meinong (1853–1920), and Bertrand Russell (1872–1970).

On the metaphysics side, we'll look at whether, in addition to different kinds of *beings* (e.g. persons, numbers, concepts), there are different kinds of *being* (e.g. existence, subsistence, concept-existence, object-existence) and, if so, which kinds of being there are. In addition, we'll also look at whether any entities (e.g. the fictional character Supergirl) have no kind of being whatsoever.

On the philosophy of language side, we'll look at names (e.g. 'Kara') and definite descriptions (e.g. 'the bespectacled reporter from National City') as they occur in several linguistic constructions, including identity sentences (e.g. 'Kara = Supergirl') and belief ascriptions (e.g. 'Lena believes that Supergirl is from Krypton').

**Course requirements**

Quiz	5%
Short writing assignment	10%
First paper or problem set	25%
Second paper or problem set	25%
Final paper	35%

The quiz is worth 5% of the final grade; but, to pass the course, you will need to get a perfect score on it. You may take the quiz as many times as you like during the semester, provided that you get a perfect score at least once by the end of the semester.

The short writing assignment should be less than a page. Each of the next two assignments will be either a paper (about 2 or 3 pages) or a problem set; at least one of them will be a paper. The final paper should be about 3–5 pages. Due dates will be announced in class at least one week in advance.

## **Readings**

Readings are available on Blackboard. I will often presuppose that students will have the relevant texts in front of them in class.

## **Academic misconduct**

The university policy on academic misconduct is set out in Article II, Section 6 of the University Senate Rules and Regulations. Examples of academic misconduct include (but are not limited to) “giving or receiving of unauthorized aid on ... assignments,” “knowingly misrepresenting the source of any academic work,” and “plagiarizing another’s work.” Penalties for academic misconduct include receiving a failing grade for the course, being suspended from the university, and being expelled. For further details, see [policy.ku.edu/governance/USRR#art2sect6](http://policy.ku.edu/governance/USRR#art2sect6).

## **Accessibility**

I’m committed to making this class as accessible as possible. If you have any particular accommodation requests, please speak to me as soon as possible.

## **Title IX**

According to Title IX, “No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving federal financial assistance.”<sup>1</sup>

If you or someone you know has been sexually harassed or assaulted, you can find resources at the Office of Institutional Opportunity and Access ([ioa.ku.edu](http://ioa.ku.edu)) or by contacting the Title IX Coordinator ([ioa@ku.edu](mailto:ioa@ku.edu)).

Please note that, under FERPA (the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act), a university has a legal right to access its students’ medical records from campus health clinics.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Title IX is a portion of the United States Education Amendments of 1972, Public Law No. 92-318, 86 Stat. 235 (23 June 1972), codified at 20 U.S.C. Section 1681–1688.

<sup>2</sup> In effect, FERPA limits the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). See “Joint Guidance on the Application of the *Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)* and the *Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA)* to Student Health Records,” p. 6. Available at [www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/ocr/privacy/hipaa/understanding/coveridentities/hipaaferpajointguide.pdf](http://www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/ocr/privacy/hipaa/understanding/coveridentities/hipaaferpajointguide.pdf).

Please note also that, under Title IX, faculty members have an obligation to report to IOA incidents of sexual harassment or assault that they know, or have reason to believe, have occurred.

### **Laptops**

You are permitted to use laptops in class.

However, students report that they find laptop use in class distracting. This includes laptop use by their peers.<sup>3</sup> (If you're browsing Facebook during class, you might find it interesting. So, apparently, might those around you.) More importantly, "the level of laptop use was negatively related to several measures of student learning, including ... overall course performance," which is to say that (generally speaking) the more students used laptops in class, the worse their final grades were.<sup>4</sup>

If you use a laptop in class, please try to sit somewhere where your screen is less likely to be visible to others.

### **Concealed carry**

If you carry a concealed handgun, familiarize yourself both with the relevant state and federal laws and with KU's weapons policy. See [concealedcarry.ku.edu/information](http://concealedcarry.ku.edu/information).

### **Schedule**

There is no class on Tuesday, 17 October 2017 (Fall Break) or Thursday, 23 November 2017 (Thanksgiving Break).

A detailed and updated schedule will be posted online. We might not cover all of the material listed in the tentative outline below; or we might cover more. How much (or how little) material we cover will depend on how the class goes.

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<sup>3</sup> Carrie B. Fried, "In-Class Laptop Use and Its Effects on Student Learning," *Computers and Education* 50.3 (April 2008): 906–914.

<sup>4</sup> Fried, "In-Class Laptop Use and Its Effects on Student Learning," p. 906.

## Tentative outline

### 1. Frege

- 1879 *Begriffsschrift*, Section 8
- 1891 “Function and Concept”
- 1892 “On Sense and Reference”
- 1892–1895 [Comments on Sense and Reference]

### 2. Jones

- 1890 *Elements of Logic as a Science of Propositions*, excerpts from Sections VI and XI (pp. 44–54, 86–91)
- 1893 “On the Nature of Logical Judgment”
- 1893–1894 “Import of Categorical Propositions”

### 3. Meinong

- 1904 “The Theory of Objects”

### 4. Russell

- 1903 *The Principles of Mathematics*, excerpts from Chapters IV and LI (p. 43, pp. 449–450)
- 1905 “On Denoting”
- 1912 “The World of Universals”

### 5. Meinong–Russell

#### *Russell*

- 1904–1907 Three letters to Meinong
- 1905 Review of Meinong
- 1907 Review of Meinong

### 6. Jones–Russell

#### *Jones*

- 1910 “Mr. Russell’s Objections to Frege’s Analysis of Propositions”

#### *Russell*

- 1910–1911 “Knowledge by Acquaintance and Knowledge by Description” (esp. pp. 121–125)

#### *Jones*

- 1910–1911 “A New Law of Thought” (esp. pp. 174–186)
- 1913 “Analysis of Categorical Propositions” (esp. pp. 526–528)

## 7. Frege–Russell

### Frege

- |      |                   |
|------|-------------------|
| 1902 | Letter to Russell |
| 1904 | Letter to Russell |

### Russell

- |      |                 |
|------|-----------------|
| 1904 | Letter to Frege |
|------|-----------------|

## Bibliography

- Frege, Gottlob. 1879. *Begriffsschrift, eine der arithmetischen nachgebildete Formelsprache des reinen Denkens*. Halle: Nebert. Selections trans. by Michael Beaney as “*Begriffsschrift: A Formula Language of Pure Thought Modelled on that of Arithmetic*” in Frege 1997: 47–78.
- . 1891. *Function und Begriff: Vortag, gehalten in der Sitzung vom 9. Januar 1891 der Jenaischen Gesellschaft für Medizin und Naturwissenschaft*. Jena: Pohle. Trans. by Peter T. Geach as “Function and Concept” in Frege 1980a: 21–41. Reprinted in Frege 1997: 130–148.
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- . 1904. Letter to Russell (13 Nov.). In Frege 1976: 243–248. Trans. by Hans Kaal in Frege 1980b: 160–166. Excerpt reprinted in Nathan Salmon and Scott Soames, eds., *Propositions and Attitudes* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1988), 56.
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- . 1979. *Posthumous Writings*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
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  - 1904–1907. Three letters to Meinong. Trans. by Douglas Lackey as “Three Letters to Meinong: A Translation” in *Russell* 9 (Spring 1973): 15–18.
  - 1905a. “On Denoting.” *Mind* 14.56 (Oct.): 479–493.
  - 1905b. Review of Meinong, ed. 1904b. *Mind* 14.56 (Oct.): 530–538.
  - 1907. Review of Meinong 1906. *Mind* 16.63 (July): 436–439.
  - 1910–1911. “Knowledge by Acquaintance and Knowledge by Description.” *Proceedings of the Aristotelian Society* 11: 108–128.
  - 1912. “The World of Universals.” In *The Problems of Philosophy*, Home University Library (London: Williams and Norgate, 1912), 91–100.