

Analytic Philosophy
Philosophy 388, Fall 2018

Office hours updated 30 August 2018

Instructor: Ben Caplan
Time: T Th 9:30–10:45 AM
Location: 1007 Wescoe Hall
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Course description

We'll read and discuss some analytic philosophy from the late 19th and early 20th centuries and also from the late 20th and early 21st centuries. From the late 19th and early 20th centuries, we'll focus on work by E. E. Constance Jones (1848–1922), Gottlob Frege (1848–1925), Alexius Meinong (1853–1920), and Bertrand Russell (1872–1970). From the late 20th and early 21st centuries, we'll focus on work by Anthony Everett, Saul Kripke, Kris McDaniel, Terence Parsons, Benjamin Schnieder and Tatjana von Solodkoff, Amie Thomasson, and Peter van Inwagen.

The course will mainly be on issues in metaphysics and philosophy of language. The first part of the course will be on the semantics of names (e.g. 'J. K. Rowling' and 'Robert Galbraith'), including names from fiction (e.g. 'Hermione Granger' and 'Harry Potter'). The second part of the course will be on ontological pluralism: roughly, the view that, in addition to different kinds of things (e.g. authors and novels), there are different kinds of existence or being. The final part of the course will be on fictional characters (e.g. Hermione Granger and Harry Potter). Do they exist or have being? If so, what kind of existence or being do they have?

Course requirements

Quiz	5%
Group assignment	10%
Short writing assignment	10%
Problem set	20%
First paper	25%
Final paper	30%

The quiz will be on the use–mention distinction and related terminology. It 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.

For the group assignment, you will be given a short passage from a text and asked to reconstruct the argument in explicit premise–conclusion form.

The short writing assignment will be to present an argument in prose (i.e. not in explicit premise–conclusion form). It should be less than a page.

The first paper should be about 2 or 3 pages. The final paper should be about 3–5 pages.

Due dates will be announced in class and via Blackboard. Due dates for the group assignment and the short writing assignment will be announced at least five days in advance (e.g. the Thursday before a Tuesday). Due dates for the problem set and the first paper will be announced at least one week in advance.

The final paper will be due at 10 AM on Tuesday, 11 December 2018.

Grading

Numbers will be converted to letter grades using the following scheme.

94–100	A
90–93	A–
87–89	B+
84–86	B
80–83	B–
77–79	C+
74–76	C
70–73	C–
67–69	D+
64–66	D
60–63	D–
0–59	F

Numbers will be rounded up or down in the conventional way (e.g. 83.4 is rounded down to 83, and 83.6 is rounded up to 84).

I won't be using Blackboard to calculate your grades; rather, I'll be using my own spreadsheet. If you're curious about your grade at any point, just ask or email me.

Prerequisite

Introduction to Symbolic Logic (Philosophy 310), or an equivalent course, is a prerequisite or a corequisite. I will use some notation from symbolic logic (e.g. ' $\exists xFx$ ' or ' $a=b$ '), and I will explain it when I introduce it, but you might find this course easier if you have already taken Introduction to Symbolic Logic.

Readings

Readings are available on Blackboard. Sometimes we will carefully read small amounts of text. This will make more sense if you have the relevant text in front of you 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.

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.

Laptops

You are permitted to use laptops and other electronic devices in class, since some students prefer taking notes, or reading texts, on such devices.

However, students report that they find laptop use in class distracting. This includes laptop use by their peers.¹ (If you’re browsing social media 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.²

If you use a laptop or other electronic device 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.

¹ Carrie B. Fried, “In-Class Laptop Use and Its Effects on Student Learning,” *Computers and Education* 50.3 (April 2008): 906–914.

² Fried, “In-Class Laptop Use and Its Effects on Student Learning,” p. 906.

Schedule

A detailed and updated schedule will be posted on Blackboard.

There is no class on Tuesday, 16 October 2018 (Fall Break). There is also no class on Thursday, 22 November 2018 (US Thanksgiving).³

Tentative outline

The outline is tentative. I might make changes, depending on what we're interested in and how things go. I'll announce changes in class and via Blackboard.

Names

Jones (1890)	<i>Elements of Logic as a Science of Propositions</i> , 44–54
Jones (1893–1894)	“Import of Categorical Propositions,” 36–37
Frege (1892)	“On Sense and Reference”
Russell (1905)	“On Denoting”
Kripke (1972)	<i>Naming and Necessity</i> , excerpts
Kripke (2013)	<i>Reference and Existence</i> , 26–28

Ontological pluralism

Jones (1890)	<i>Elements of Logic as a Science of Propositions</i> , 86–91
Jones (1893)	“On the Nature of Logical Judgment,” 454–455
Frege (1891)	“Function and Concept”
Frege (1892–1895)	“[Comments on <i>Sinn</i> and <i>Bedeutung</i>],” 129–132
Russell (1903)	<i>Principles of Mathematics</i> , 43, 449–450
Russell (1912)	<i>The Problems of Philosophy</i> , 90, 98–100
Russell (1919)	<i>Introduction to Mathematical Philosophy</i> , 169–170
Meinong (1904)	“The Theory of Objects,” 76–86
McDaniel (2009)	“Ways of Being”
Van Inwagen (2014)	“Modes of Being and Quantification”

³ The class will not meet on Canadian Thanksgiving (8 October 2018), but that's because it's a Monday.

Fictional characters

- Jones (1890) *Elements of Logic as a Science of Propositions*, 89–90
 Jones (1893) “On the Nature of Logical Judgment,” 454–455
- Russell (1903) *Principles of Mathematics*, 43, 449–450
 Russell (1905) “On Denoting,” 482–483
 Russell (1905) Review of Meinong, 532–533
 Russell (1907) Review of Meinong, 439
 Russell (1919) *Introduction to Mathematical Philosophy*, 169–170
- Meinong (1904) “The Theory of Objects,” 76–86
- Parsons (1975) “A Meinongian Analysis of Fictional Objects”
 Parsons (1982) “Fregean Theories of Fictional Objects,” 82–85
- Kripke (1974) “Second General Discussion Session,” 509–510
 Kripke (2013) *Reference and Existence*, 55–62, 69–83
 van Inwagen (1977) “Creatures of Fiction”
- Everett (2005) “Against Fictional Realism,” 624–638
 Thomasson (1999) *Fiction and Metaphysics*, 55–69
 Thomasson (2011) “Fiction, Existence and Indeterminacy,” 132–143
 Schnieder and von Solodkoff (2009) “In Defence of Fictional Realism”