

Philosophy 452: History of Philosophy—Frege
Winter 2003

Time: Th 2:30 PM – 5:00 PM
Location: 383 University College
Instructor: Ben Caplan
Office: 468 University College
Office hours: M 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM (priority for 15.129 students)
W 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM (priority for 15.452 students)
Or by appointment
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I. Description

Gottlob Frege (1848 – 1925), a German philosopher and mathematician, is widely regarded as the founder of analytic philosophy. In this seminar, we will focus on his work in philosophy of language, philosophy of mind, metaphysics, and epistemology. (We will not focus on his work in mathematics or philosophy of mathematics. That would be another seminar.) In the first part of the seminar, we will survey his views from 1879 to 1919. In the second part of the seminar (if there is time), we will look at a recent exegetical dispute about Frege's views on identity and identity sentences.

II. Readings

Our required text is Michael Beaney, ed., *The Frege Reader* (Oxford: Blackwell, 1997). Since we will be discussing Frege's texts in detail, you should bring *The Frege Reader* with you to seminar. Other readings will be made available to you as necessary.

Tentative schedule

January	9	FIRST CLASS—Introduction
	16	<i>Begriffsschrift</i> (1879), selections
	23	“Function and Concept” (1891); Letter to Husserl (1891), excerpt
	30	“On <i>Sinn</i> and <i>Bedeutung</i> ” (1892)
February	6	“On <i>Sinn</i> and <i>Bedeutung</i> ” (cont.); “[Comments on <i>Sinn</i> and <i>Bedeutung</i>]” (1891-1895); Letter to Russell (1902), excerpt; Letter to Russell (1904), excerpt
	13	“Concept and Object” (1892)
	20	WINTER BREAK
	27	“Thought” (1918-1919); Letter to Jourdain (1914), excerpt
	March	6
	13	*“What’s Puzzling Gottlob Frege?”
	20	**“What’s Puzzling Gottlob Frege?” (cont.)

March	27	*“Frege on Identity and Identity-Statements: A Reply to Thau and Caplan”
April	3	*“Frege on Identity and Identity Sentences: A Reply to Heck”
	10	LAST CLASS—Review and catch up
	17	PAPER DUE

Except for those marked with an asterisk, readings are to be found in *The Frege Reader*.

III. Requirements

Your grade (all 100% of it) will be based on a 10- to 15-page seminar paper. I must approve your topic. You are required to meet with me at least twice during the semester: once, by the end of Week 7 (i.e. 28 February 2003), to discuss your topic; and again, by the end of Week 12 (i.e. 4 April 2003), to discuss your progress. The paper is due one week after the last class, i.e. by 5 PM on Thursday, 17 April 2003.

IV. A Warning about Academic Dishonesty

It is difficult to overstate the importance of academic honesty. If you are unsure about what counts as academic dishonesty (e.g. plagiarism) or about how to cite sources, ask. You are responsible for knowing the University of Manitoba regulations. Start by consulting the General Academic Regulations and Requirements, particularly Section 7 (Academic Integrity). See Section 7.1 (Plagiarism and Cheating):

<http://webapps.cc.umanitoba.ca/calendar03/regulations/plagiarism.asp>

and Section 4.2.8. (Examinations: Personations):

http://webapps.cc.umanitoba.ca/calendar03/regulations/exams/exams_personations.asp.