

Philosophy 700: First-Year Seminar
Fall 2008, W 3:30-6:18, 353 University Hall

Ben Caplan
337F University Hall
caplan.16@osu.edu

David Sanson
372 University Hall
sanson.7@osu.edu

Course Description

Our goal in this seminar is to work through a small handful of classic texts in the philosophy of language, texts that are essential background for any contemporary student of philosophy. The topics we will cover—reference, content, truth—cast a long shadow, influencing work well beyond the narrow confines of philosophy of language.

Requirements

Short paper (2-3 pages): due week 3.

We will divide the task of grading these short papers: half of the papers will be graded by Ben, half by David. You will be required to revise and resubmit your short paper until it is judged satisfactory by he who graded it. Your grade for the paper will be based upon the final revision.

Seminar paper (10-15 pages): draft due week 6, final paper due at the end of finals week.

We will both comment on the draft and jointly grade the final paper. You will be required to meet with each of us to discuss comments on your draft and develop a revision strategy.

Presentations

You will be required to do one 10-15 minute presentation and to comment on someone else's 10-15 minute presentation. Because our schedule of readings is flexible, you should not expect to know for certain what topic you will be presenting on more than a week in advance.

Participation

As much as possible, we intend to put this seminar in your hands. We expect each of you to come to class each week ready to dig in. Proper preparation requires, not just that you have read the material, but that you are ready to lead

us all in a discussion of the material, and we expect each of you to be so prepared each week.

Grade

Your grade will be calculated as a function of your moral worth.

Texts

You should purchase Kripke's *Naming and Necessity* (ISBN: 0674598466). Other papers will be made available online or as photocopies.

Readings

Our readings will be dictated by how fast we go. It is possible to spend an entire quarter on the first page of "On Sense and Reference." While we wish to avoid that extreme, our goal is not to rush through the material to get to the end: this course is a beginning, not an end.

At a minimum, we will work through these texts in order:

Frege, Gottlob. 1879. *Begriffsschrift, eine der arithmetischen nachgebildete Formelsprache des reinen Denkens*. Halle: Nebert. Preface and Part I trans. By Michael Beaney as "*Begriffsschrift: A Formula Language of Pure Thought Modelled on that of Arithmetic*" in Michael Beaney, ed., *The Frege Reader* (Oxford: Blackwell, 1997), 47-78. Section 7.

Frege, Gottlob. 1892. "Über Sinn und Bedeutung" ["On Sense and Reference"]. Trans. By Max Black as "Sense and Reference" in *Philosophical Review* 57.3 (May 1948): 209-230.

<http://www.jstor.org/stable/2181485>

<http://www.gavagai.de/HHP31.htm> (German)

Meinong, Alexius. 1904. "Über Gegenstandstheorie." In *Untersuchungen zur Gegenstandstheorie und Psychologie*. Ed. Alexius Meinong. Leipzig: Barth. 1-50. Trans. by Isaac Levi, D.B. Terrell, and Roderick M. Chisholm as "The Theory of Objects" in Roderick M. Chisholm, ed., *Realism and the Background of Phenomenology* (Glencoe, IL: Free Press, 1960), 76-117.

Russell, Bertrand. 1905. Review of *Untersuchungen zur Gegenstandstheorie und Psychologie*. *Mind* 14.56 (Oct.): 530-538.

<http://www.jstor.org/stable/2248384>

Russell, Bertrand. 1907. Review of *Über die Stellung der Gegenstandstheorie im System der Wissenschaften*. *Mind* 16.63 (July): 436-439.

<http://www.jstor.org/stable/2248449>

Russell, Bertrand. 1905. "On Denoting." *Mind* 14.56 (Oct.): 479-493.

<http://www.jstor.org/stable/2248381>

Kripke, Saul A. 1972. "Naming and Necessity." 1970. In *Semantics of Natural Language*. Ed. Donald Davidson and Gilbert Harman. Synthese Library 40. Dordrecht: Reidel. 253-355, 763-769. Reprinted as *Naming and Necessity*. (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1980). Lectures I and II.

Depending on time, interest, and ambition, we will continue on with these texts:

Frege, Gottlob. 1918-1919. "Der Gedanke: Eine logische Untersuchung." *Beiträge zur Philosophie des Deutschen Idealismus* 2: 58-77. Trans. by Peter T. Geach as "The Thought: A Logical Inquiry" in *Mind* 65.259 (July 1956): 289-311.

<http://www.jstor.org/stable/2251513>

<http://www.gavagai.de/HHP32.htm> (German)

Perry, John. 1977. "Frege on Demonstratives." *Philosophical Review* 86.4 (Oct.): 474-497.

<http://www.jstor.org/stable/2184564>

Kaplan, David. 1989. "Demonstratives: An Essay on the Semantics, Logic, Metaphysics, and Epistemology of Demonstratives and Other Indexicals." 1977. In *Themes from Kaplan*. Ed. Joseph Almog, John Perry, and Howard Wettstein. Oxford: Oxford University Press. 481-563.

Lewis, David. 1979. "Attitudes De Dicto and De Se." *Philosophical Review* 88.4 (Oct.): 513-543.

<http://www.jstor.org/stable/2184843>

In addition, or alternatively, we might work through these texts:

Geach, Peter T. 1960. "Ascriptivism." *Philosophical Review* 69.2 (April): 221-225.

<http://www.jstor.org/stable/2183506>

Geach, Peter T. 1965. "Assertion." *Philosophical Review* 74.4 (Oct.): 449-465.

<http://www.jstor.org/stable/2183123>