

PHIL 328-CLASSICS OF ANALYTIC PHILOSOPHY

Fall 2020

Instructor: Megan Hyska	Time: T,Th 2:40-4
Email: megan.hyska@northwestern.edu	Place: Online

Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday 9-10am appointment required, and by alternative arrangement.

Course Materials: All materials will be made available on Canvas.

Course Description and Objectives: This course will trace the major preoccupations of analytic philosophy from its beginnings in the late 19th century. Students will emerge with improved ability to engage with tricky philosophical material, and with an understanding of some of the tradition's central movements and disputes. This course aims to develop the capacity for critical reasoning and further the related [learning objectives of the Northwestern philosophy program](#).

Course Format: This class is being taught via synchronous online instruction. Asynchronous accommodations may be arranged on a case-by-case basis by contacting the instructor, where a pressing need exists (e.g. you are living in a timezone such that our class time would be in the middle of your night). Asynchronous accommodations will not be granted on the basis of a time conflict with other classes.

Course Outline:

Class #	READINGS AND COURSEWORK
1	Introduction, No readings
2	Frege's backdrop SEP entry on the Analytic/Synthetic Distinction (§1, "The Intuitive Distinction")
3	Gottlob Frege, <i>On Sense and Reference</i>
4	Gottlob Frege, <i>The Thought</i>
5	G.E. Moore, <i>The Refutation of Idealism</i>
6	Bertrand Russell, <i>On the Relations of Universals and Particulars</i> , excerpt from <i>The Problems of Philosophy</i> , <i>On Denoting</i>
7	Continued
8	Ludwig Wittgenstein, from the <i>Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus</i> §§1- 3.5,4-4.04, 4.05-4.123, 4.46-4.463, ,6.1-6.12, 7
9	Continued

10	Continued
11	A.J. Ayer, Chapter 1 of <i>Language, Truth, and Logic</i>
12	W.V.O. Quine, <i>Two Dogmas of Empiricism</i>
13	Continued
14	Ludwig Wittgenstein, excerpt from <i>Philosophical Investigations</i>
15	Continued
16	P.F. Strawson, <i>On Referring</i>
17	Saul Kripke, lecture I of <i>Naming and Necessity</i>
18	Saul Kripke, lecture II of <i>Naming and Necessity</i>
19	Saul Kripke, lecture III of <i>Naming and Necessity</i>
20	Catch-up

Grade breakdown:

- Final Paper 35%
- Quizzes (every Monday/Tuesday) 25%
- Reading Responses (due every Thursday) 25%
- Participation 15%

Assignments:

1. *Reading Responses* To be handed in on Canvas by 11:00am every Thursday morning (starting 09.24) before class. Except where the instructor says otherwise, reading responses will concern the reading to be discussed later that Thursday in class. For each response, do the following:
 - (a) In one sentence, and as clearly as possible, outline the author's thesis
 - (b) In 250 words or less, outline the author's argument for that thesis
 - (c) Finish with one question about the text. This question can be critical, or can be a clarificatory question. Note though that, if the latter, it must be the sort of clarificatory question an attentive reader may be left with *after having done the reading*. So, for example "What does Bertrand Russell think is the right analysis of definite descriptions?" would be an inappropriate question to ask after having read *On Denoting* ;) Note that I will choose a few students' questions every week to post on the discussion board for other students to respond to (see Participation section, below).

2. *Quizzes*

Rather than having a traditional midterm exam, this class will examine your grasp of the last week's material every Tuesday (starting 09.29). Quizzes are designed to take approximately 10-15 minutes, and Canvas will allow you a max of 20 minutes, and a single attempt, to complete it. Questions will concern comprehension of the readings covered the previous week, rather than an evaluation of their arguments. The previous week's slides and lecture recordings will be a good study guide for these quizzes. Any materials may be used during quiz, but quizzes must be completed by yourself; collaborating with any one else on a quiz will be regarded as an academic integrity violation. These quizzes will go live at 12:00pm Evanston time every Monday and must be completed by the beginning of class (2:40pm Evanston time) every Tuesday.

3. *Final Paper*

A final 2000-2500 word paper is due **December 3rd**. You will be given a list of topics by November 5th. Undergraduates should select one of these.

Any enrolled graduate students should write a longer (3000 word+) paper. They will be assigned a different topic than those listed for undergraduates, in conversation with instructor.

Attendance and Participation:

- Unless you make alternative arrangements with the instructor (see below), this is a synchronous class, requiring your attendance and participation 2:40-4 every Tuesday and Thursday.
- Unless you make alternative arrangements with the instructor, attendance requires being **online** with your **camera on** for the entirety of the class period.
- Every student is granted 2 freebies— this means you get two asynchronous class periods over the course of the quarter without excuse, with the expectation that you will watch the video of the missed class period before the following class period to catch up. Synchronous attendance with camera off, if not pre-cleared with instructor, will count as an absence and so use one of these freebies. Further missed course meetings may be excused by the instructor, but require advance notice.
- You will earn your participation grade in 2 ways:
 1. by engaging in in-class discussion
 2. by submitting thoughtful, high-quality responses to at least one question in that day's Canvas thread at the end of each class period. I highly encourage you to submit your response right after class ends, but you can receive points if response is submitted by 11:59pm Evanston time on the day of the class period.
- If at any point in the quarter you want to check in on your participation grade, by all means shoot me an e-mail or make an appointment to chat about it.
- If your circumstances require an asynchronous accommodation (e.g. you are living in a timezone such that our class time would be in the middle of your night), please reach out to the instructor ASAP. If your accommodation request is approved, you will be required to agree to an alternative set of participation requirements.

Academic Integrity: If you plagiarize or otherwise cheat on any assignment you will receive a zero on that assignment and be referred to the college's disciplinary body. Note that it is your responsibility to make sure you know what plagiarism consists of and that ignorance of what constitutes plagiarism will not be

considered a legitimate excuse in the event of an infraction. If you need help figuring out how to responsibly cite something, please ask your instructor or refer to [NUWrite's list of helpful resources](#).

Students with Disabilities: Any student with a disability requesting accommodations should register with Services for Students with Disabilities (ssd@northwestern.edu; 847-467-5530) and present an accommodation letter from SSD to their professor, preferably within the first two weeks of class. All discussions will remain confidential.