

Early Analytic Philosophy

John Dougherty

SoSe 2023

Meeting:	Tuesdays, 12:00–14:00 (c.t.) Geschwister-Scholl-Pl. 1 / E 210
Office Hours:	Thursdays, 14:00–16:00, or by appointment Ludwigstr. 31 / 131
Email:	john.dougherty@lrz.uni-muenchen.de

Description

This course is concerned with a collection of related developments in logic, metaphysics, and philosophy of language that occurred in England between roughly 1900 and 1920. We will read and discuss primary sources from four philosophical episodes:

1. Attempts to construct a philosophical theory of meaning appropriate to the new logic of quantification
2. The clash between analytic philosophy and British idealism
3. The clash between analytic philosophy and pragmatism
4. Disagreements within analytic philosophy over the relation of language to the world

Objectives

By the end of the course, you should be able to (i) precisely characterize one or more philosophical disagreements over topics of concern to the early analytic philosophers and (ii) assess one or more strategies for resolving these disagreements. Exhibiting ability (i) means giving a statement, in academic writing, of each side of the disagreement and reasons in favor of each. Exhibiting ability (ii) means describing, again in academic writing, why one side of the disagreement might be found more compelling.

Materials

The readings for this course will be drawn from journal articles and books available to you free of charge. They are linked in the “Schedule and readings” section below. The journal articles are available on JSTOR through the LMU University Library’s subscriptions. For assistance in accessing articles using the Library’s license, see the Library’s web page on “E-Media Login” ([here](#)). The books are in the public domain, and they are available on the Internet Archive.

Assessment

The evaluation for this course will be by means of a term paper submitted at the end of the semester. If you would like to submit a term paper, you must register through LSF during the registration period (26.06–07.07.2023) and submit it to me by email by the term paper deadline (TBD). Please note that extensions of this deadline are not up to me; if you need an extension, please contact Fabian Widerna (f.widerna@lmu.de) at the Prüfungsamt für Geistes- und Sozialwissenschaften (PAGS).

Your paper should be on a topic related to the philosophical dimensions of mathematics. I will distribute a list of suggested questions and grading criteria before the registration period. You may write your paper on topic not on that list; if you do, then I recommend speaking to me before writing the paper, so that I can advise on the topic and scope of your planned alternative. The term paper should be 3000 words for BA students and 6000 words for MA students. In either case, it should be written in 12pt font, with 1.5 spacing, 3cm margins on the left and right, and a standard academic typeface (Computer Modern, Palatino, Times New Roman, Calibri, etc.).

Resources

Questions about the administration of philosophy teaching at LMU should be directed to Thomas Wyrwich (thomas.wyrwich@lrz.uni-muenchen.de). The Erasmus coordinator for philosophy at LMU is Peter Adamson (office.peter.adamson@lrz.uni-muenchen.de). The list of women’s representatives (Frauenbeauftragte) for the Philosophy Faculty can be found on the Faculty’s webpage ([here](#)). Issues regarding the

economic, social, and cultural aspects of student life—including studying with a child or studying with a disability—are the responsibility of the Munich Student Union (here).

Schedule and readings

The new logic

18.04 No reading

25.04 Gottlob Frege: Preface and §§1–12, from *Begriffsschrift* (1879)

02.05 Gottlob Frege: “On sense and reference” (1892) and “On concept and object” (1892)

09.05 Bertrand Russell: “On denoting” (1905)

16.05 E. E. Constance Jones: “Mr. Russell’s objections to Frege’s analysis of propositions” (1910) and “A new ‘law of thought’ and its implications” (1911)

The refutation of idealism

23.05 F. H. Bradley: “Substantive and adjective” and “Relation and quality”, from *Appearance and Reality* (1893)

30.05 G. E. Moore: “The nature of judgement” (1899)

06.06 G. E. Moore: “The refutation of idealism” (1903)

13.06 L. Susan Stebbing: “The method of analysis in metaphysics” (1932)

Pragmatism and French Voluntarism

20.06 William James : “Pragmatism’s conception of truth”, from *Pragmatism* (1907)

27.06 G. E. Moore: “Professor James’ ‘Pragmatism’” (1907)

04.07 L. Susan Stebbing: Conclusion from *Pragmatism and French Voluntarism* (1914)

The *Tractatus*

11.07 Ludwig Wittgenstein: §§1–3 of *Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus* (1921)

18.07 Ludwig Wittgenstein: §§4–7 of *Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus* (1921)