

**THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO  
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY  
Graduate Course Outline 2018-19**

**Philosophy 9653A: Proseminar**

**Fall Term 2018**

**Class Days and Hours:** F 11:30-2:30

**Classroom:** TBA

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## **DESCRIPTION**

A survey of foundational and highly influential texts in Analytic Philosophy. Emphasis will be on four sub-topics, namely *Language and Philosophical Logic*, *Epistemology*, *Metaphysics* (including *Metaethics*) and *Metaphilosophy*. A focal point regardless of sub-topic will be the tools and techniques highlighted in these texts, which reappear across Analytic philosophy.

## **REQUIRED TEXT**

G.E.M. Anscombe, *Intention*

J.L. Austin, *How to do Things with Words*

S. Kripke, *Naming and Necessity*

W. Sellars, *Empiricism and the Philosophy of Mind*

L. Wittgenstein, *Blue and Brown Books*

## **OBJECTIVES**

The twin objectives are honing of philosophical skills and enriching students' familiarity with some "touchstone" material in 20<sup>th</sup> Century Analytic philosophy. In terms of skills, the emphasis will be on: professional-level philosophical writing; close reading of notoriously challenging texts; methodological reflection; and respectful but incisive philosophical dialogue.

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

Six "Briefing Notes": 50%

- On the day they are discussed in class, students will submit 2-3 page (i.e., 750-1000 words) "reader responses" to selected writings, consisting of an outline of the central

*argument*, along with the student's comments and questions. (This is to be sharply contrasted with an outline of the *paper*, section-by-section.)

- Each Briefing Note is worth 10%, and all are obligatory. However the lowest grade will be dropped

Short Term Paper: 35%

- Students will write a brief paper, the length and style of a conference paper (i.e., about 4000 words), on one of the topics addressed in the class.

Class Participation: 15%

## **COURSE READINGS**

Gottlob Frege (1892), "On Sense and Reference"

Gottlob Frege (1918), "The Thought"

Bertrand Russell (1905), "On Denoting"

Bertrand Russell (1912), "Knowledge by Acquaintance and Knowledge by Description"

G.E. Moore (1925), "A Defense of Common Sense"

G.E. Moore (1939), "Proof of an External World"

Rudolf Carnap (1932), "The Elimination of Metaphysics through Logical Analysis of Language"

W.V.O Quine (1951), "Two Dogmas of Empiricism"

H. Paul Grice and Peter F. Strawson (1956), "In Defense of a Dogma"

W.V.O. Quine (1948), "On What There Is"

Rudolf Carnap (1950), "Empiricism, Semantics and Ontology"

Ludwig Wittgenstein (1958), *Blue and Brown Books*

H. Paul Grice (1957), "Meaning"

H. Paul Grice (1961), "The Causal Theory of Perception"

Wilfred Sellars (1956), *Empiricism and the Philosophy of Mind*

Saul Kripke (1980), *Naming and Necessity*

Elizabeth Anscombe (1957), *Intention*

Elizabeth Anscombe (1958), "Modern Moral Philosophy"

Elizabeth Anscombe (1975), "The First Person"

Philippa Foot (1967), "Abortion and the Doctrine of Double Effect"

Philippa Foot (1972), "Morality as a System of Hypothetical Imperatives"