

THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY
Undergraduate Course Outline 2016-17

Philosophy 3040G: From Kant to Quine: The Origins of Analytic Philosophy

Winter Term 2017 Mon 12:30- 2:30, Wed 1:30- 2:30 UCC 63	Instructor: DiSalle STVH 4142 Office Hours: Wed, Fri 11:30- 12:30 rdisalle@uwo.ca
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DESCRIPTION

Analytic philosophy, as pursued over the last century, seems incredibly remote from the concerns that defined modern philosophy in the period from Descartes to Kant. How did we get here from there? The analytic turn started from a sense that traditional methods had failed to answer the traditional questions of philosophy-- or even posed the questions clearly. Analytic philosophers appreciated Kant's objections both to rationalism and to empiricism: reason by itself could not grasp the nature of reality, and experience could not account for reality without the help of concepts. But they also rejected Kant's idea that conceptual knowledge is necessarily tied to sensible intuition, as *a priori* form to *a posteriori* content. The common failing of Kant and his predecessors, according to the analytic philosophers, was a failure to understand the nature and function of language in our thought. Some of the most challenging problems in philosophy, they argued, stemmed from misunderstandings about the ways in which reality and our knowledge of it are represented in language. Their efforts to clarify these problems had an impact far beyond the traditional boundaries of philosophy: they played a part in revolutionary developments in mathematics, physics, and the foundations of computer science.

We will study the major themes and motivations of analytic philosophy, starting from their connections and conflicts with earlier traditions, especially the metaphysics and epistemology of earlier modern philosophy. Authors to be studied will include Kant, Frege, Russell, Wittgenstein, Stebbing, Carnap, Quine, Grice, Strawson, Austin, and Putnam.

TEXTS

Supplementary readings (excerpts from seminal articles and books) will be posted on OWL.

REQUIREMENTS

3 short writing assignments (each 15%)

Final exam (45%)

Class participation (10%)

OBJECTIVES

- To understand philosophical aims, methods, and impact of analytic philosophy
- To understand how the analytic tradition developed from earlier traditions
- To understand the role of language in philosophy

- To develop competence in critical analysis by careful reading and discussion
- To develop skills of oral expression and argument through class discussion
- To develop writing skills through written assignments

AUDIT

Students wishing to audit the course should consult with the instructor prior to or during the first week of classes.

DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY POLICIES

The **Department of Philosophy Policies** which govern the conduct, standards, and expectations for student participation in Philosophy courses is available in the Undergraduate section of the Department of Philosophy website at <http://uwo.ca/philosophy/undergraduate/policies.html>.

It is your responsibility to understand the policies set out by the Senate and the Department of Philosophy, and thus ignorance of these policies cannot be used as grounds of appeal.

ACCOMMODATION

Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments worth 10% or more of their final grade must apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department. Documentation shall be submitted, as soon as possible, to the Office of the Dean of the student's Faculty of registration, together with a request for relief specifying the nature of the accommodation being requested. The UWO Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness and further information regarding this policy can be found at http://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf.

ACADEMIC OFFENCES

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

PLAGIARISM CHECKING

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com <http://www.turnitin.com>.

SUPPORT SERVICES

Registrarial Services <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>

Student Support Services <https://student.uwo.ca/psp/heprdweb/?cmd=login>

Services provided by the USC <http://westernusc.ca/services/>

Student Development Centre <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help. Immediate help in the event of a crisis can be had by phoning 519.661.3030 (during class hours) or 519.433.2023 after class hours and on weekends.