Philosophy 515  
Contemporary Philosophy: The Analytic Turn  
Spring 2008 Syllabus  
Prof. Clare Batty

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Office Hours: W, 1:30-3:00; F, 10:00-11:30; or by appt.

Course Description
This course is a survey, largely in historical order, of various twentieth century philosophical trends typically grouped together under the label “Anglo-American” or “Analytic Philosophy”. Deriving initially from a dominant interest in formalizing mathematical and scientific language, these trends are characterized by a shared methodological assumption to the effect that the resolution of philosophical problems resides at least in part in the careful analysis of language. We will read the work of representative thinkers such as Frege, Moore, Russell, Wittgenstein, Kripke, and Quine.

Course Objectives
We will have two aims:
• to become familiar with important developments in so-called “analytic philosophy” over the last 120 or so years, in such areas as philosophy of language, metaphysics, epistemology and philosophical methodology; and
• to subject the resulting philosophical positions themselves (and the methodological assumptions on which they are based) to critical scrutiny.

Required Readings
All are available in the bookstore and all are on reserve in the Young Library.

Recommended Readings
The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy (SEP) has many excellent articles on the topics/philosophers we will be discussing. The SEP can be found at: http://plato.stanford.edu/contents.html.
*A Companion to Analytic Philosophy*, ed. A. P. Martinich & David Sosa, Oxford: Blackwell Publishing. This volume has entries on all of the philosophers we will be reading, save one—Langford.
I will direct you to each of these resources as we make our way through the term.
**Reading Assignments**

There are reading assignments for each week, typically a paper from the Martinich/Sosa collection, and a chapter or two from one of Soames’ books. Soames’ books are relatively straightforward, but the readings in the Martinich and Sosa collection are often very challenging: expect to read everything at least twice. They require close study, and you should not put them off until the last minute. This course will involve a considerable amount of discussion, and if that is to be of value to us, your careful preparation of the readings is crucial. If you have trouble understanding what an author says, or any other question concerning the course, please do not hesitate to ask.

**Requirements**

5 problem sets: 10% each (50% total)
1 paper (8-10 pages): 30%
Class participation: 20%

**Plagiarism**

Plagiarism means taking the words and thoughts of others (their ideas, concepts, images, sentences, and so forth) and using them as if they were your own, without crediting the author or citing the source. At this and most other universities, plagiarism is taken very seriously and will be punished in accordance with the UK Policy on Disposition of Academic Offenses. For more information on plagiarism, and how to avoid it, see:

http://www.uky.edu/Ombud/Plagiarism.pdf
http://wps.prenhall.com/hss_understand_plagiarism_1/0,6622,427064-,00.html

For a statement on UK’s Policy on Disposition of Academic Offenses, see:

http://www.chem.uky.edu/research/grossman/acadoffenses/new_policy.pdf

**Getting Help**

I am here to help you. Feel free to email me with any questions about the material or the assignments, or come and visit me during office hours. You may also make an appointment with me outside of office hours.

**Additional Web Resources**

See Jim Pryor's Guidelines on reading and writing philosophy papers:

http://www.jimpryor.net/teaching/guidelines/reading.html
http://www.jimpryor.net/teaching/guidelines/writing.html.

Useful glossaries are Jim Pryor's Philosophical Terms and Methods:


**Classroom and Learning Accommodations**

Any student with a disability who is taking this course and needs classroom or exam accommodations should contact the Disability Resource Center, 257-2754, room 2 Alumni Gym, jkarnes@uky.edu.
Tentative Schedule

WEEK 1 (Jan. 9, 11)
Introduction and Good Housekeeping
Readings: Soames, vol. 1: “Introduction to the Two Volumes” (SS)

WEEK 2 (Jan. 14, 16, 18)
Philosophy of Language
Frege, “On Sense and Reference” (AP)
Frege, “On Thought” (AP)
*Problem set 1 handed out Wednesday Jan. 16*

WEEK 3 (Jan. 21, 23, 25)
Readings: Russell, “On Denoting” (AP)
Soames, vol. 1, ch. 5: “Logical Form, Grammatical Form and the Theory of Descriptions” (SS)
*Problem set 1 due Wednesday Jan. 23*

WEEK 4 (Jan. 28, 30, Feb. 1)
Readings: Strawson, “On Referring” (AP)
Soames, vol. 2, ch. 5: “Strawson’s Theory of Truth” (SS)

WEEK 5 (Feb. 4, 6, 8)
Readings: Grice, “Meaning” (AP)
Soames, vol. 2, ch. 9: “Language Use and the Logic of Conversation” (SS)
*Problem set 2 handed out Wednesday Feb. 6*

WEEK 6 (Feb. 11, 13, 15)
Readings: Davidson, “Truth and Meaning” (AP)
Soames, vol. 2, ch. 12: “Theories of Truth and Theories of Meaning” (SS)
*Problem set 2 due Wednesday Feb. 13*

WEEK 7 (Feb. 18, 20, 22)
Readings: Kripke, “Identity and Necessity” (AP)

WEEK 8 (Feb. 25, 27, 29)
Metaphysics
Readings: Wittgenstein, from the Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus (AP)
Soames, vol. 1, ch. 9: “The Metaphysics of the Tractatus” (SS)
*Problem set 3 handed out Wednesday Feb. 27*
WEEK 9 (Mar. 3, 5, 7)
Readings: Quine, “On What There Is” (AP)
handout or chapter from Soames, TBA
*Problem set 3 due Wednesday Mar. 5*

WEEK 10: SPRING BREAK!

WEEK 11: (Mar. 17, 19, 21)
Epistemology
Readings: Moore, “Four Forms of Skepticism” (AP)
Soames, vol. 1, ch. 1 & 2: “Common Sense and Philosophical Analysis”, Moore on
Skepticism, Perception and Knowledge” (SS)
*Problem set 4 handed out Wednesday Mar. 19*

WEEK 12: (Mar. 24, 26, 28)
Readings: Wittgenstein, from On Certainty (AP)
*Problem set 4 due Wednesday Mar. 26*

WEEK 13: (Mar. 31, Apr. 2, 4)
Readings: Russell, “Knowledge by Acquaintance and Knowledge by Description” (AP)
Soames, vol. 1, ch. 7: “Logical Constructions and the External World”, “Russell’s Logical
Atomism” (SS)

WEEK 14: (Apr. 7, 9, 11)
Philosophical Methodology
Readings: Langford, “The Notion of Analysis in Moore’s Philosophy” (AP)
Moore, “Reply to Langford” (AP)
Soames, vol. 1, ch. 1 (again): “Common Sense and Philosophical Analysis” (SS)
*Problem set 5 handed out Wednesday Apr. 9*

WEEK 15: (Apr. 14, 16, 18)
Readings: Ayer, “The Elimination of Metaphysics” (AP)
Knowledge”, “The Rise and Fall of the Empiricist Criterion of Meaning” (SS)
*Problem set 5 due Wednesday Apr. 16*

WEEK 16: (Apr. 21, 23, 25)
Readings: Quine, “Two Dogmas of Empiricism” (AP)
Soames, vol. 1, ch. 14: “The Analytic and the Synthetic, the Necessary and the Possible,
the Apriori and the Aposteriori” (SS)
[Possibly: Grice & Strawson, “In Defense of a Dogma” (AP)]
*Paper due Friday April 25*