

PHIL 3422: Analytic Philosophy (3 credits)

SECTION 001: LA 356, MWF, 11:00 –11:50 a.m.

Contact Information

Instructor: Dr. Edward Johnson
Office: Liberal Arts 395
Office Hours: 9:30 – 10:00 MWF and 2:00 – 3:30 F (and by appointment)
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Course Webpages: [Moodle](#) login page

Required Text

- [1] Ammerman, Robert. *Classics of Analytic Philosophy* (Hackett, 1990), ISBN 0872201015
- [2] Dummett, Michael. *Origins of Analytical Philosophy* (Harvard University Press, 1993), ISBN 9780674644731
- [3] Rorty, Richard, ed. *The Linguistic Turn* (University of Chicago Press, 1992), ISBN 0226725693

Course Description

CATALOG DESCRIPTION: An examination of the methods and doctrines of the leading approach to Philosophy in the twentieth century in the English-speaking world. Such thinkers as Wittenstein, Russell, Moore, Carnap, Austin, and Quine will be discussed.

COURSE OVERVIEW: We will examine Moore’s and Russell’s rejection of “idealism” and their notion of “analysis”; Russell’s “logical atomism”; the influence of Wittgenstein’s *Tractatus*; the “logical positivism” of Carnap and Ayer; Moore’s notions of analysis and common sense; the work of Ryle, Austin, and the “later” Wittgenstein; developments and modifications by Quine and Davidson; and Rorty’s pragmatist critique.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successfully completing this course, students will be able to:

- Identify features of philosophical analysis
- Define key concepts in the history of “analytic” philosophy
- Evaluate the persuasiveness of philosophical arguments of different types
- Apply metaphilosophical concepts studied to various philosophies
- Synthesize, in effective English essays, central aspects of philosophical debate in this area
- Articulate the “paradox of analysis”
- Explain the significance of “paradigm case” arguments

Grades will be based on a 100 point scale distributed as follows:

Requirement		Final grade	
Participation	(10%) 10 points	A	90 – 100 points
Reflection Paper 1	(10%) 10 points	B	80 – 81 points
Reflection Paper 2	(10%) 10 points	C	70 – 79 points
Exam 1	(20%) 20 points	D	60 – 69 points
Exam 2	(20%) 20 points	F	0 – 59 points
Final Exam	(30%) 30 points		

PARTICIPATION: The class will meet on MWF, from 11:00 to 11:50, in LA 356. The Undergraduate/Graduate Catalog states: "Students are expected to attend all classes regularly and punctually. **A student who is not present when attendance is checked in a class is considered absent.**" The Attendance Policy of the Department of English states: "When a student has missed a total of 1½ weeks of classes ... the instructor may request that the student's dean put the student on attendance probation. ... Continued absences from any ... class will subject the student to full penalties ... including failing the course..." That reasonable policy, in the case of a class meeting three times a week, would allow for, say, five absences. **Each additional absence (beyond the five) will incur a one-and-a-half point penalty deduction from the student's final semester average.** Attendance means attending the entire class: **attendance may be checked more than once during class.** Students who leave early without permission will be assessed ½ absence for that day. Students should be on time; those who arrive more than 20 minutes late will be assessed ½ absence for that day. Attendance at public events requires a commitment to contribute to the maintenance of public order for the sake of a shared benefit: this includes paying attention and participating appropriately.

REFLECTION PAPERS: Two "reflection papers" are due during the semester. These should be about 250-500 words (a page or two) in length, and should discuss your understanding of the material discussed in class and the readings up to that point in the semester. Reflection papers should conform to guidelines posted on Moodle, and an electronic copy should be submitted by the deadline via Moodle. A printed "hard copy" must be submitted in class on the day the paper is due. These papers should not contain any unattributed (or inadequately attributed) work that is not the student's own thinking. Plagiarism will earn an F for the class.

LATE WORK: Late work will be accepted solely at the discretion of the instructor, and only with a sufficient, documented excuse, for a limited time (depending, of course, on the excuse). *Nota bene:* Confusion, or lack of understanding, is not a good excuse for not writing the reflection papers: rather, students should try to explain what they do not understand, and its significance in relation to what they do understand.

EXAMS: There will be two in-class exams, and a final exam, in which you will respond to questions about the material covered. The format will be essay/short answer. You will be expected to demonstrate in your answers that you have thought about the issues in an informed, thoughtful, and articulate way, in language showing an appropriate mastery of college-level communication skills.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: Academic integrity is fundamental to the process of learning and evaluating academic performance. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, the following: cheating, plagiarism, tampering with academic records and examinations, falsifying identity, and being an accessory to acts of academic dishonesty. Refer to the Student Code of Conduct for further information. The Code is available online at <http://www.studentaffairs.uno.edu> [This section is quoted from mandated University language.]

ATTENDANCE: Required. See the section Participation above.

ELECTRONICS: Use of electronic devices is, in general, not allowed during class. You may use a laptop computer or a tablet to take notes, but not during exams (unless required for disability accommodations). Use of phones, e-mailing, texting, online surfing, etc., are not permitted during class.

MAKE-UP EXAMS: Make-up exams are discouraged, and the absence of support staff makes scheduling flexibility difficult. Any make-up exam (if the instructor determines that it is justified) will have to take place during the instructor's office hours.

DISABILITY ACCOMMODATIONS: It is University policy to provide, on a flexible and individualized basis, reasonable accommodations to students who have disabilities that may affect their ability to participate in course activities or to meet course requirements. Students with disabilities should contact the Office of Disability Services as well as their instructors to discuss their individual needs for accommodations. For more information please go to <http://www.ods.uno.edu> [This section is quoted from mandated University language.]

ASSESSMENT: You will be required to complete a Pre-Assessment document at the first class, and a Post-Assessment document at the last class. These will not be graded, but good-faith completion of both assessments is a requirement for passing the course. This is a component of our department's effort to evaluate and improve instruction by measuring learning outcomes. You will have a separate opportunity to fill out your own evaluation of the course.

WARNING: Learning philosophy requires the ability to examine critically, from a variety of perspectives, one's most basic assumptions about what is true and what is valuable. Critical examination involves challenging what we take for granted. Students occasionally find such an experience unsettling, as it may instill doubt about matters thought to be secure, or may require a serious engagement with ideas, language, or viewpoints the student finds threatening, or offensive, or absurd. This is especially possible in connection with controversial topics in ethics, politics, and religion. We will deal with any controversial matters in an explicit, candid, and analytical fashion. Your continued enrollment in this course constitutes acceptance of the right of other students, and the right of the professor, to explore relevant ideas, language, and viewpoints in a frank and open manner. If you object to that – if you think rational adults should be prevented from discussing certain subjects, or speaking certain words, or viewing certain images – then this is not the course for you.

PHIL 3422 Tentative Timeline *(very subject to revision)*

DAY	TOPIC/READING
Jan 12	Syllabus and pre-instruction assessment
Jan 14	Introduction
Jan 16	Moore, Russell, and the rejection of Idealism
Jan 19	No class – Martin Luther King holiday
Jan 21	TBA
Jan 23	The concept of analysis (Handout)
Jan 26	Russell, “Descriptions” (Ammerman, 15-24)
Jan 28	Strawson, “On Referring” (Ammerman, 315-339)
Jan 30	Russell, “What There Is” (Ammerman, 25-34)
Feb 2	Wittgenstein’s Notebooks, 1914-16 (Handout)
Feb 4	The impact of the <i>Tractatus</i> (Handout)
Feb 6	The Vienna Circle (Rorty, 54-62)
Feb 9	Ayer, <i>Language, Truth and Logic</i> (Ammerman, 111-129)
Feb 11	Hempel, “Problems and Changes in the Empiricist Criterion of Meaning” (Ammerman, 214-230)
Feb 13	FIRST EXAM
Feb 16	No class – Mardi Gras holiday
Feb 18	Moore, “A Defence of Common Sense” (ammerman, 47-67)
Feb 20	Moore, “Proof of an External World” (Ammerman, 68-84)
Feb 23	Ryle, “Systematically Misleading Expressions” (Rorty, 85-100)
Feb 25	Ryle, <i>The Concept of Mind</i> (Ammerman, 296-314)
Feb 27	continued
Mar 2	Austin, “Other Minds” (Ammerman, 353-378)
Mar 4	Austin, “A Plea for Excuses” (Ammerman, 379-398)
Mar 6	continued; FIRST REFLECTION PAPER DUE
Mar 9	Moore, “Wittgenstein’s Lectures in 1930-1933,” in Ammerman, 233-284
Mar 11	continued [Final Drop Date, Mar 11]
Mar 13	continued
Mar 16	Carnap’s later work: “Empiricism, Semantics, and Ontology,” in Rorty, 72-84
Mar 18	Quine, “Two Dogmas of Empiricism” (Ammerman, 196-213); “Semantic Ascent” (Rorty, 168-171)
Mar 20	Grice and Strawson, “In Defense of a Dogma” (Ammerman, 340-352)
Mar 23	Davidson’s program (Dummett, <i>passim</i>)
Mar 25	continued
Mar 27	continued

Mar 30	SECOND EXAM
Apr 1	No class – spring break
Apr 3	No class – spring break
Apr 6	Frege, Husserl, and the rejection of Psychologism (Dummett, Chs. 1-8)
Apr 8	continued
Apr 10	continued
Apr 13	Putnam, Kripke, and direct reference (Handout)
Apr 15	continued
Apr 17	continued
Apr 20	Rorty's critique of analytic philosophy (Rorty, 1-39, 361-374)
Apr 22	continued
Apr 24	continued
Apr 27	Conclusion
Apr 29	continued
May 1	Post-instruction assessment & course evals; SECOND REFLECTION PAPER DUE
May 6	Final Exam (10:00-Noon – <i>Note change of time!</i>)

Syllabus Acknowledgement PHIL 3422-001, Spring 2015

I hereby acknowledge that I have received a copy of the syllabus for this course, and I understand that it is my obligation as a student to read it, familiarize myself with its contents, and inquire in a timely way about any points on which I have questions.

I acknowledge, in particular, that it is my responsibility to be aware of the timeline of course activities (reading assignments, exam dates, paper deadlines, etc.) and am aware that nonperformance or tardy performance will affect my final course grade adversely.

I acknowledge also that failure to comply with course and university policies and requirements regarding academic integrity will expose me to serious academic sanctions.

Finally, I acknowledge that the instructor and the institution reserve the right to make reasonable changes during the semester, as circumstances warrant.

Student's name (printed): _____

Student's signature: _____

Date: _____