

N. Griffin

Thursdays 11.30am - 2.20pm

Office Hours: Fridays 2.00 - 3.00pm

Course Description

Philosophy 6D03

Term 2, 2018/19 (Winter 2019)

The course offers a narrative history of the early years of analytic philosophy (chiefly the period from 1895 to 1918 and chiefly from Russell's point of view). (I use 'narrative' here, not in the sense it has in critical theory, but in the old fashioned sense of explaining how one thing led to another and why it seemed like a good idea at the time.) We look first at the neo-Hegelian philosophy which preceded it, then at the reasons for which Moore and Russell rejected neo-Hegelianism, then at the new philosophy with which they replaced it and finally at the way that philosophy evolved in the face of problems it had to deal with. The narrative ends in 1918 when Russell's philosophy took a more empiricist, naturalistic turn, but we shall look a bit beyond 1918 to see how some of the issues which dominated the earlier period fared in the later. The purpose of the course is to acquaint you with the main issues that were involved in this major development in the history of philosophy. Most of the required texts for the course are available in a course-pack, but students will also need to read parts of Russell's *The Principles of Mathematics* (at least the preface and chapters 1,4,5 and 9), which, because of the way information is owned under capitalism, were not available for inclusion in the course pack. (I have put *The Principles of Mathematics* on reserve in the Mills Library, it is available as an e-book through the Mac Library system – and no doubt elsewhere – and multiple print copies are available in the Russell Archives though they cannot be taken out.) Reading beyond the course-pack materials and *The Principles of Mathematics* will be required for successful completion of the course.

Assessment will be by means of a major research paper 6,000-8,000 words long on a topic of your own choice (to be handed in at the last class). Topics for the research paper will be suggested throughout the course. I am happy to discuss your topic with you and suggest readings for it before you write. The research paper must demonstrate reading outside the course-pack and should take a stand on some matter of controversy in the secondary literature.

Schedule:

10, 17 and 24 January: The failure of neo-Hegelianism

Readings: Items 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 in the Coursepack.

Supplementary Reading: Mander, *British Idealism. A History* (OUP, 2011)

Griffin, *Russell's Idealist Apprenticeship* (OUP, 1991)

Baldwin and Preti, *G.E.Moore. Early Philosophical Writings* (CUP, 2011)

Griffin, 'The Tiergarten Programme', *Russell: The Journal of the Bertrand Russell Archives*, (1988), 8: 19-34.

Hylton, *Russell, Idealism and the Emergence of Analytic Philosophy* (OUP, 1990)

31 January, 7, 14 February: The New Realism and Logicism

Readings: Item 6 in the Coursepack and Russell's *The Principles of Mathematics*

Supplementary Reading: Hylton, *Russell, Idealism and the Emergence of Analytic Philosophy* (OUP, 1990)

Griffin, *Russell's Idealist Apprenticeship* (OUP, 1991)

Griffin, 'Terms, Relations, Complexes' in Irvine and Wedeking (eds.), *Russell and Analytic Philosophy* (Uof T Press, 1993), pp. 159-192

Hylton, *Propositions, Functions, and Analysis* (OUP, 2005)

Griffin, 'Denoting Concepts in *The Principles of Mathematics*', in Monk and Palmer (eds.), *Bertrand Russell and the Origins of Analytical Philosophy*, (Thoemmes, 1996), pp. 23-64.

Levine, 'From Absolute Idealism to *The Principles of Mathematics*', *International Journal of Philosophical Studies* (1998), 6: 87-127

Stevens, *The Russellian Origins of Analytical Philosophy* (Routledge, 2005)
 Gandon, *Russell's Unknown Logicism* (Palgrave, 2012)

28 February: On Denoting

Readings: Items 7 and 8 in the Coursepack

Supplementary Readings: Makin, *The Metaphysicians of Meaning* (Routledge, 2000)
 Stevens, *The Theory of Descriptions* (Palgrave: 2011)
 Neale, *Descriptions* (MIT, 1990)

7, 14 and 21 March: *Principia Mathematica*

Readings: Item 9 in the Coursepack

Supplementary Readings: Irvine, 'Epistemic Logicism and Russell's Regressive Method', *Philosophical Studies*, (1989), 55: 303-27
 Stevens, *The Russellian Origins of Analytical Philosophy* (Routledge, 2005)
 Landini, *Russell's Hidden Substitutional Theory* (OUP, 1998)
 Landini, 'New Evidence Concerning Russell's Substitutional Theory of Classes' *Russell: The Journal of the Bertrand Russell Archives* (1989), 9: 26-42
 Urquhart, 'Russell's Zig-zag Path to the Ramified Theory of Types' *Russell: the Journal of the Bertrand Russell Archives* (1988), 8:82-91.
 Urquhart, 'The Theory of Types', in Griffin (ed.) *The Cambridge Companion to Bertrand Russell* (CUP, 2003)
 Linsky, *Russell's Metaphysical Logic* (CSLI, 1999)

28 March, 4 April: The Impact of Wittgenstein and beyond

Readings: Items 10, 11, 12, 13 in the Coursepack

Supplementary Readings: Wittgenstein, *Cambridge Letters* (Blackwell, 1995)
 Wittgenstein, *Notebooks 1914-16* (Blackwell, 1979)
 Russell, *Theory of Knowledge (Collected Papers, vol 7)*
 Landini, 'A New Interpretation of Russell's Multiple-relation Theory of Judgment', *History and Philosophy of Logic*, (1991), 12:37-69
 Stevens, 'Re-examining Russell's Paralysis: Ramified Type Theory and Wittgenstein's Objection to Russell's Theory of Judgment', *Russell: The Journal of Bertrand Russell Studies*, (2003), 23: 5-26
 Stevens, 'Russell's Repsychologizing of the Proposition'. *Synthese*, (2006), 151: 99-124