Syllabus Two: Majors Seminar – Frege (Taught Fall 2014 at U Penn)

A course for 4th years who are majoring in Philosophy. ('Canvas' is our online learning tool). Although the course runs for 16 weeks, there are 14 weeks worth of content due to days off during some of the weeks.

Frege's philosophy has been of enormous importance in both philosophy of language and philosophy of mathematics. In this course we cover several key topics in his philosophy: the linguistic turn, the context principle, logicism, his conception of numbers as objects and two key distinctions he makes, sense/reference and object/concept. We will be reading both original material from Frege and important commentary. We will work through Frege's material biographically, starting with his earliest works, and along the way considering various modern responses and commentary to his works.

LOGISTICS
Time: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10.30 - 12
Place: Room 203, Claudia Cohen Hall
Professor: Katie Monk
Contact: mail [AT] katiemonk.net
Office Hours: Tuesdays 3-4
Deadlines:
  • Class Summary – the Thursday after the week assigned
  • Shorter Paper – bring a completed copy to Peer Review, you then have one week to make any changes you like. Final draft due: 16th Oct
  • Final papers due 11th Dec

I will be posting a few questions before each session for you to think about and help guide your reading. You can find them at upennfrege.blogspot.com . You do not need to write your answers to these questions down, (although you can if it helps you) but please take a look and have a think about them before the class. There will not be any questions for the introductory week.

Students will take turns to write 1 page summaries of what we discuss each week. The summaries will be posted on canvas after I have checked them for accuracy. In this way we will build a record of what we have discussed throughout the course.

Frege originally wrote in German. The titles of his works are sometimes left in German and sometimes translated into English. This also true of some of his key terminology. To avoid confusion:

Common Translations
Begriffschrift (1879) = The Concept Script
Die Grundlagen der Arithmetik (1884) = The Foundations of Arithmetic
[sometimes people refer to this work simply as Grunlagen, or The Foundations]
Grundgesetze der Arithmetik (Vol 1 1893, Vol 2 1903) = Basic Laws of Arithmetic
[sometimes people refer to this work simply as Grundgesetze, or Basic Laws]

Sinn = Sense

Bedeutung = Reference (sometimes translated as 'meaning')

<u>ASSESMENT</u>
Class Participation
10% of final grade

Class Discussion Summary
10% of final grade
You will each write one summary, around a page in length, summarizing the issues and discussion that we covered during the week you are assigned. This will be due the Thursday of the week after you are assigned. So for example, if you are assigned to write a summary of the discussion during week three (sessions on 9th and 11th Sept) then your summary would be due on the 18th Sep.

Shorter Paper
30% of final grade
You will write a shorter paper of around 2,000 words. You will choose from titles set by me. You should have this paper ready for the Peer Review Session.
You will then have one week to make any changes you like to your paper. I will then give an academic mark this final copy of the paper.
Your grade for the shorter paper is determined:
      -90% by the academic grade I give to your final draft
      -10% by your contributions during the Peer Review session. If you cannot make the Peer Review session for a good reason please let me know in advance and I will make other arrangements. If you turn up to the Peer Review session without a complete paper, or if you do not turn up, without prior permission I shall consider your paper late and dock a grade. In addition if you had in your paper later than the 13th Oct without an extension I shall dock half a letter grade per day.

Longer Paper
50% of final grade
You will write a longer paper of around 4,000 – 5,000 words.
You may decide on your own title for this paper, but I must agree your title in advance.
Late papers without an extension will be docked half a letter grade per day.

If you have a medical or personal issue that is interfering with your ability to work, please let me know. In particular, if you think that you may miss a deadline, please let me know – ideally in advance. Papers that are late without me granting an extension will be downgraded half a letter grade per day.

<u>COURSE MATERIALS</u>
Our main texts will be:
      -Michael Beany, *The Frege Reader*, Blackwell Publishing, 1997
      -Anthony Kenny, *Frege*, Blackwell Publishers, 1995
      -Patricia Blanchette, *Frege's Conception Of Logic*, OUP, 2012
      -(eds) Micheal Potter and Tom Ricketts, *The Cambridge Companion to Frege*, CUP,
2010

In addition we will be reading some sections from
        -Micheal Dummet, *Frege − Philosophy of Language*, Harvard University Press,
1981

Any papers not in these volumes will be uploaded to Canvas.

CAM = *The Cambridge Companion to Frege*
DUM = Micheal Dummet, *Frege − Philosophy of Language*

Week One: Introduction
  • Introduction, Micheal Potter, pgs 1 - 32 pgs from CAM
  • Kenny, Introduction, pgs 1 - 12

Week Two: Concept Script
  • Kenny, Chap 2 and Chap 3
  • Frege, Preface to Concept Script, pgs 84 − 91 in Beany
  • Goldfarb, Frege's Conception of Logic, pgs 63 - 86 from CAM

Week Three: Foundations
  • Frege, Foundations of Arithmetic, Sections 1 -3, pgs 84 − 105
    (if you struggle with this reading take a look at Chap 4 of Kenny)
  • Frege, Foundations of Arithmetic, Sections 4 and 5, pgs 105 -129
  • Kenny Chap 5

Week Four: Foundations
  • Øystein Linnebo, Frege's context principle and reference to natural numbers
  • Joan Weiner, Frege and The Lingustic Turn

Week Five: Foundations
  • Dirk Greimann, What is Frege's Julius Cesar Problem?
  • Blanchette, Chap 1

Week Six: Concept Object
  • Frege, On Concept and Object, pgs 151-172 of Beany (if you struggle with this
    reading take a look at Kenny Chap 6)
  • Terrance Parsons, Why Frege Should Not Have Said 'The Concept Horse is
    Not a Concept'

Week Seven: Peer Review
Peer Review of essays − Shorter Paper due
Final draft of shorter paper due a week later

Week Eight: Sense and Reference
  • Frege, Sense and Reference, pgs151 − 172 of Beany (if you are struggling then
    take a look at Kenny Chap 7)
  • William Tascheck, On Sense and Reference: A Critical Reception, Sections 1
    -4, pgs 291 − 321 of CAM

Week Nine: Sense and Reference

- Dummet, Sense and Reference, Chap 5, DUM
- William Tascheck, On Sense and Reference: A Critical Reception, Sections 5 and 6, pgs 321 - 342 of CAM

Week Ten: Blanchette's Analysis
- Blanchette, Chap 2
- Blanchette, Chap 3

Week Eleven: Basic Laws
- Frege, Sections of Basic Laws
- Vol 1: Introdution, Preface, Sections 1 -4, 26 - 33
- Vol 2: Sections 55 -67 and Section 147

Both to be found in Beany (Vol 1 starts on pg 194, Vol 2 starts on pg 258)
(if you struggle consult Kenny Chap 8)
- Frege, Letter to Russell, 22/6/1902, pgs 253-254 of Beany
- Frege, Basic Laws, Appendix, pgs 278 -289 of Beany
- Stanford Encyclopedia, Russell's Paradox
  http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/russell-paradox/
(If you struggle consult Kenny Chpt 9)

Week Twelve
- Blanchette, Chap 4
- Edward Zalta and Bernard Linsky, What is Neologicism?

Week Thirteen: Later Works
- Frege, Thought in Beany
- Frege, Negation in Beany

Week Fourteen: Later Works
- Kenny Chap 10
- Kenny Chap11

Week Fifteen: Frege's Legacy
- Kenny Chap 12
- Dummet, Frege's place in the history of philosophy, DUM

Week Sixteen
Last Class - Overview