

## **Phil 467/812 “Early Analytic Philosophy”**

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Although this class is somewhere labeled as ‘Early Analytic Philosophy’, it would be more accurate to call it ‘middle-aged analytic philosophy’. Early analytic philosophy is generally taken to be Gottlob Frege, (early) Bertrand Russell, and (early) Ludwig Wittgenstein. I propose to start with a movement called Logical Atomism (presented by Russell as a series of lectures “The Philosophy of Logical Atomism” in 1918 and a retrospective piece “Logical Atomism” in 1924). From there I intend to look at some selection of the Logical Positivists’ writings, and the “ordinary language philosophers” who were becoming prominent under the (intellectual) leadership of (the later) Wittgenstein (I think mostly of Waismann, Ryle and Austin). Finally, I want to pay attention to an article by Benson Mates and a reply by Stanley Cavell on the verification of claims about “ordinary language”.

There will be two short descriptive essays during the term ... short summaries of the readings or of some topic brought up in class. There will also be a final paper (10-15pp) on a topic determined in consultation between professor and student.

Graduate students taking the course as Phil 812 are required to do the two short essays during the term, give a lecture to the class on a topic chosen in consultation with the professor, and write a longer (15-20pp) final essay. Additionally, their work is expected to be better than an undergraduate’s work for the same grade.

Some of our readings will be available on reserve in the library. Many of the others are collected in Ayer (1959), which I have ordered through the bookstore and put into the library reserve. For the version of positivism that English speakers in the 1940s knew, we have Ayer (1936), or rather the 1947 second edition: The second edition has a longish, new introduction, with a new formulation of “the principle of verification”. I have also ordered the Rorty anthology through the bookstore, since it contains articles about the methodology of “ordinary language philosophy” (besides stuff from the Positivists). Finally I ordered Lyas be available as an ebook through the library (it is out of print, although a few copies are available through amazon.ca). (Except for Ayer 1947, the required books are anthologies, and it is possible that you can find the articles we will read by other means than purchasing the book.)

### **Required:**

Ayer, A.J. (1947) *Language, Truth, and Logic* (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition). Penguin Books, London; 2001 reprint. ISBN-13: 978-0-141-18604-7; ISBN-10: 0-141-18604-6

Ayer, A.J. (ed) (1959) *Logical Positivism* (available from Greenwood Press as a “reprint edition” 1978). ISBN-10: 0313204624; ISBN-13: 978-0313204623

Lyas, Colin (1971) *Philosophy and Linguistics*. (Macmillan: London). Available through the Bennett Library as an ebook.

Rorty, Richard (ed) (1992 edition) *The Linguistic Turn*. Univ. Chicago Press (Originally published in 1977). ISBN: 0-226-72569-3

### **Recommended:**

Friedman, Michael (1999) *Reconsidering Logical Positivism* Cambridge Univ. Press. ISBN-10: 0521624762; ISBN-13: 978-0521624763