

Part 1a, Paper 3 Logic | Michaelmas 2016

Philosophical Logic

Lecturer: Dr Maarten Steenhagen

Course description This course will introduce several key concepts in the philosophy of language and logic. It will cover the syllabus materials on Philosophical Logic (Section B of the paper in Logic). Feel free to contact me at ms2416@cam.ac.uk if you have any suggestions, questions, or comments about this course.

General reading An interesting and readable introductory textbook is: Sybil Wolfram (1989), *Philosophical Logic: An Introduction*, Oxford: Routledge.

Online resources Outlines and handouts will be made available on: <http://mstenhagen.github.io/teaching/2016plo/>

Where and when Wednesday 2-3. Lecture Block Room 1

Lecture 1: Necessity

What explains the necessity of some truths? This lecture discusses the notion of a necessary truth, and related notions of analytic statements and *a priori* knowledge.

Suggested Reading A. J. Ayer (1946), *Language, Truth and Logic* (2nd ed.), London: Gollancz, ch. 4.

Lecture 2: Rigid Designation

Can empirical truths be necessary? This lecture considers the possibility of necessary but a posteriori truths.

Suggested Reading Saul A. Kripke (1971), 'Identity and Necessity,' in M.K. Munitz (ed.), *Identity and Individuation*. New York: New York University Press. 135-164. [PDF](#)

Lecture 3: Meaning

Where does meaning come from? This lecture discusses the relation between the meaning of a communicative utterance and the thoughts of its utterer.

Suggested Reading H. P. Grice (1957), 'Meaning,' *The Philosophical Review* (66:3), pp. 377-388.

Lecture 4: Natural Language

Can there be linguistic meaning without thought? This lecture considers whether linguistic, communicative meaning can emerge independent of thought.

Suggested Reading Ruth G. Millikan (2005), 'The Language-Thought Partnership' in *Language: A Biological Model*, Oxford: Oxford University Press. Online at: <http://web2.uconn.edu/philosophy/departments/millikan/hj-glock.pdf>

Lecture 5: Natural Language vs Formal Language

Can you formalise everyday conversations? This lecture discusses the similarities and differences between natural and formal languages.

Suggested Reading Mark Sainsbury (2001), 'The Project of Formalization,' (ch. 6) in *Logical Forms: An Introduction to Philosophical Logic*, Oxford: Blackwell, 339-391.

Lecture 6: Conditionals

What is the relation between truth-functional operators and their everyday counterparts? This lecture discusses attempts to offer a formal definition of ordinary ‘if..., then...’ locutions.

Suggested Reading Dorothy Edgington (2008), ‘Conditionals’, in E.N. Zalta, ed., *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (Winter Edition) [Online]. Available at: <http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/conditionals/>

Lecture 7: Deeper into ‘the’

How do descriptions work? This lecture introduces philosophical discussion about definite descriptions.

Suggested Reading Bertrand Russell (1905), ‘On Denoting’ *Mind* (14), 479-93.

Lecture 8: Referring Descriptions

Can assertions using definite descriptions refer while being false? This lecture considers the significance of referring uses of descriptive statements.

Suggested Reading Keith Donnellan (1966), ‘Reference and Definite Descriptions,’ *Philosophical Review* (75), 281-304. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/2183143>
