

**PL160 INTRODUCTION TO ANALYTIC PHILOSOPHY**  
**Spring 2020**

Instructor: Robert Martin

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Class meetings: Wednesdays and Fridays, 10:45-12:15

Office Hours: by appointment

**Course Description**

Analytic philosophy, growing largely from the work of Bertrand Russell and G.E. Moore at Cambridge University in the late 1890s, has remained a vibrant force in Western philosophy. We will study five classic and formative texts: G. E. Moore "A Defense of Common Sense"; Bertrand Russell "On Denoting"; A. J. Ayer Language, Truth and Logic; J.S. Austin How to Do Things With Words; Saul Kripke Naming and Necessity. There are no prerequisites.

**Requirements**

The course requirements consist of:

1. Responses to 13 reading questions (RQ1–13) that are assigned throughout the semester. Each of the 13 homework assignments consists of a question (or several) on the reading, which is also assigned at that time. Responses to the reading questions are graded, with letter grades. Each assignment is due at the end of the Monday of the week in which the reading is discussed in class. It is important that I have your responses so I can read them in advance of our class meeting. The dates of these assignments are listed below, under Schedule.
2. A 10-15 page term-paper, due on May 15. See below, Writing Assignments.
3. A final examination on May 13 covering the course readings; **however, if you complete 10 of the 13 reading questions, submitted on time, with an average grade of B or better, you do not need to take the final examination.**

**Academic Integrity**

Bard College Berlin maintains the staunchest regard for academic integrity and expects good academic practice from students in their studies. Instances in which students fail to meet the expected standards of academic integrity will be dealt with under the Code of Student Conduct, Section III Academic Misconduct.

**Attendance**

Attendance at ALL classes is expected. Please consult the Student Handbook for regulations governing periods of illness or leaves of absence.

**Assessment**

Responses to the reading questions are assessed with respect to pertinence and clarity of writing. The term paper is assessed with the standards of professional philosophical writing: clarity as to goals, strength of argumentation, and awareness of possible pertinent objections. Class participation is assessed with respect to quality, not quantity, of contributions to the discussion,

### Writing Assignments

See above. The term paper is on a topic of your choice, connected to the work of at least one of the philosophers we study: Moore, Russell, Ayer, Austin and Kripke. Your paper **proposal is due on Friday, April 24** and should include an indication of how you will approach your chosen topic and a bibliography of works that you are likely to cite. I strongly urge you to submit a **draft** of your paper by Friday, May 1; a draft is **required by Friday, May 8 at the latest**. The paper itself is **due on Friday, May 15**.

The paper should be critical as well as expository. It should be clear and focused in its goals and clear and careful in its argumentation,

### **Grade Breakdown**

The reading questions count for 45% of the grade; the term paper counts for 45%, and participation in class discussion counts for 10%.

### **Schedule**

Spring 2020 classes start on Monday, January 27 and run until Friday, May 8, with spring break planned from Monday, April 6 - Monday, April 13. Completion week is from May 11-15. Students are required to be on campus during completion week.

Class meets on Wednesdays and Fridays from 10:45 to 12:15.

The class schedule, by weeks, is roughly as follows (subject to change):

Week 1	27.1 -31.1	Overview
Week 2	3.2 – 7.2	G. E. Moore on common sense and sense data
	RQ1 due 3.2, 10 p.m.	
Week 3	10.2 – 14.2	G. E. Moore on monism and relations
	RQ2 due 10.2, 10 p.m.	
Week 4	17.2 – 21.2	Frege on sense and reference
	RQ3 due 17.2, 10 p.m.	
Week 5	24.2 – 28.2	Russell “On Denoting”
	RQ4 due 24.2, 10 p.m.	
Week 6	2.3 – 6.3	Ayer on Verification and Meaning
	RQ5 due 2.3, 10 p.m.	

Week 7	9.3 -13.3	Ayer on Ethics
	RQ6 due 9.3, 10 p.m.	
Week 8	16.3 – 20.3	Austin on performative/constative utterances
	RQ7 due 16.3, 10 p.m.	
Week 9	23.3 – 27.3	Austin on speech acts
	RQ8 due 23.3, 10 p.m.	
Week 10	30.3 – 3.4	More on speech act theory
	RQ9 due 30.3, 10 p.m.	
Spring Break	6.4 – 10.4	
Week 11	13.4 – 17.4	Kripke, Naming and Necessity, Lecture I
	RQ10 due 13.4, 10 p.m.	
Week 12	20.4 – 24.4	Kripke, Naming and Necessity, Lecture II
	RQ11 due 20.4, 10 p.m.	
	Paper proposal due, 24.4, 10 p.m.	
Week 14	27.4 – 1.5	Kripke, Naming and Necessity, Lecture III
	RQ12 due 27.4, 10 p.m.	
Week 14	4.5 – 8.5	Previews of student term papers
	RQ13 due 4.5, 10 p.m.	
	Paper draft due, 8.5, 10 p.m.	
Week 15	11.5 – 15.5	Reading Week (term paper due, final exam)
	Final exam, 13.5, 10:45 a.m. (See note under Requirements: If you complete 10 of the 13 reading questions, <b>submitted on time</b> , with an average grade of B or better, you do not need to take the final examination.	
	Term paper due, 15.5, 10 p.m.	

### Library and Book Purchase Policies

The library has copies of the main texts on reserve. I recommend that you purchase the following two books:

*How To Do Things With Words*, J. L. Austin (2<sup>nd</sup> edition), Harvard University Press (1962, 1975), available in paperback.

*Naming and Necessity*, Saul Kripke, Basil Blackwood, Oxford (1972,1980), available in paperback.