

PIU22012 | History of Western Philosophy II B

Credits: 5 ECTS

Contact Hours: 22 Hours of Lectures and 10 Hours of Tutorials

Pre-requisite: N/A

Semester: TT

Module Leader: Dr Adrian Downey

Contact E-mail: downeyad@tcd.ie

Room Number: 5006

Office Hours: TBC

Lecturers:

Contact E-mail: pogrady@tcd.ie

Room Number:

Office Hours: TBC

Module Outline

Component 1: Modern Analytic Philosophy 1 (Professor Paul O'Grady)

This module explores the history of analytic philosophy, focussing on the early period, leading up to the publication of Wittgenstein's *Tractatus* in 1921. We will look at the origins of the analytic tradition and its key features (lecture 1). The impact of Frege's work in logic and philosophy of maths will be investigated, including sense and reference, concepts, quantification, number and existence (lectures 2-3). Russell's arguments against idealism, (with G.E.Moore), his discussion of referring expressions, logicism, theory of types, analysis and acquaintance will be critically examined (lectures 4-6).

Wittgenstein's background and influences, the development of his thought, the picture theory and truth function theory of propositions, the ontology of logical atomism, his notion of tautology, the mystical and nonsense will be explored, using the text of the *Tractatus*(lectures 7-10). An assessment of the impact of early analytic thought and its inauguration of the 'linguistic turn' will finish this module (lecture 11).

Learning Outcomes

At the end of this component students will be able to:

- Critically assess the historical context and key features of the analytic tradition
- Demonstrate the crucial role of Frege in setting the agenda for the tradition
- Engage critically with Russell's development of Fregean themes and applying them to wider philosophical issues in epistemology and metaphysics
- Critically read Wittgenstein's *Tractatus* and understand its decisive place in 20th century philosophy.

Recommended Reading List

As advised/circulated by lecturer during the lecture series.

Component 2: Modern Analytic Philosophy 2 (Dr Adrian Downey)

In this component we focus on the key developments in 20th century analytic philosophy after Wittgenstein's *Tractatus*. We shall consider themes like Ordinary-Language philosophy, naturalism, metaphysics' revival, and end with a stage-setting for the contemporary 'state of play' in the field.

Learning Aims

The primary learning aims of this component are

- To acquire a working knowledge of the motivations and contributions of important figures and movements in the analytic philosophical tradition (from the 1920's onwards).
- To develop general skills in the analysis and evaluation of the views of these philosophers/movements and the issues they are concerned with.

Recommended Reading List

Assessment for PIU22012 History of Western Philosophy II B (5 ECTS)

Annual and Reassessment are the same*

- Coursework: 1 essay from EITHER Component 1 OR Component 2 - 50%
- Examination: 1 examination question (1 hour) for the component for which an essay was **not** submitted - 50%