

PHIL 293 section 01, “Advanced Seminar in Logical Theory”

Writing a Revolution: An Alternative History of Analytic Philosophy

Tuesdays, 6 – 8:45 PM
Sweeney Hall Room 241
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(Come find out what Ruth is talking about!)

Though it is largely unknown to the outside world, “Analytic” philosophy is the most common kind of philosophy inside academic philosophy departments in the anglophone world today. But, this was not always the case – you would have been hard-pressed to find an analytic philosopher in many departments as recently as 70 years ago. How this came to be is the subject of this course.

We will examine the founding figures of analytic philosophy, and discover that the usual story about how the tradition was founded is lacking. We will then turn our attention to the effect that the World Wars had on philosophy, to the intellectual migration from post-war Europe to the United States, and to several philosophers that the normal histories overlook.

Readings will include work by:

- Frege
- Russell
- Wittgenstein
- Carnap
- Neurath
- Stebbing
- Foot
- Anscombe
- Murdoch
- Midgley

This course has no prerequisites, and will not assume any knowledge of mathematical logic.