

# Syllabus

## 20th Century Analytic Philosophy

**PHIL 3040: class # 14739**  
**Designation: HF**  
**Credit: 3 Units**

**Instructor:** Dr. Chapman Waters

**Office:** CTIHB 247

**Office Hours:** Mondays and Wednesdays 3pm - 5pm

**Email:** chapman.waters@utah.edu

**Class Location:** GC 1760

**Class Time:** MWF 2:00 - 2:50pm

**Prerequisites:** none

### Course Description

Analytic philosophy is a movement in, and style of, philosophy that began in Europe and America in the early 20th century, and continues to dominate academic philosophy in the English-speaking world. This course will start by examining some of the historical underpinnings of this tradition, focusing on the so-called “linguistic turn” in philosophy as initiated by Frege, Russell, and Wittgenstein. For the remainder of the semester, we will trace previously encountered topics to more contemporary themes, issues, and debates in philosophy. This portion of the course will proceed according to the interests and preferences of the class.

Potential topics include: logic and mathematics, linguistic meaning, the nature and limitations of philosophical thinking, proper philosophical methodology, the nature of truth, paradoxes of self-reference, the status of the empirical sciences, universals vs. particulars, the nature of existence and what there is, the nature of identity, persons, minds and the metal, idealism, skepticism, ethics, political justice, among others.

### Learning Outcomes

Students will gain an understanding of the historical and philosophical importance of the analytic philosophical tradition, develop skills needed to decipher difficult philosophical texts, and further hone their ability to defend and analyze arguments of their own — both verbally and in writing.

### Required Texts

All course readings will be available on the course CANVAS page.

### Grading

Grades will be given on a 0-100 point grading scale:

100-93:	A
92-90:	A-
89-87:	B+
86-83:	B
82-80:	B-
79-77:	C+

76-73:	C
72-70:	C-
69-60:	D
59-0:	E/F

Final grades be determined as follows:

30%	Accountability Tasks
20%	Canvas Quizzes
20%	Reading Discussions in Perusall
30%	Short Writing Assignments

### ACCOUNTABILITY TASKS

There will be between 5 and 20 accountability tasks assigned over the course of the semester. These will take various forms, including (but not limited to) taking attendance, short pop-quizzes, group-work, in-class debates, short-reflection pieces on that day's reading, among other things. What accountability tasks have in common is that they will be given during class-meetings and students will not know on which days they will be administered. Moreover, it's possible that more than one accountability task will be assigned during a single class period. These assignments will not be overly difficult. I suspect that most students who come to class prepared will be able to earn most of the points on any given task. The goal of these assignments is to motivate students to attend class and to come to class prepared.

### CANVAS QUIZZES

There will be *four* quizzes administered and turned in through the Canvas course webpage this semester. You must complete all four. Quizzes will cover the content of the following lecture and/or the content of the previous lecture(s). They will contain relatively easy, multiple choice questions which can only be answered if the student has done the reading for the relevant class session and/or attended previous lectures. Take note: each quiz will have a due date and a "time window" in which it is to be completed — usually 24 or 48 hours (note: this is the only time constraint for these assignments). You will *not* be permitted to complete a quiz after its due date has passed. *It is your responsibility to ensure that you complete each quiz before the time at which it is due. Again, you are required to complete each and every quiz that is administered through Canvas.*

### READING DISCUSSIONS IN PERUSALL

Perusall is a "social reading platform" available to students via Canvas. It allows students to digitally annotate readings (with text, links, and embedded content). The goal is to make the process of figuring out what's happening in class readings one that is collaborative, engaging, and (hopefully) fun. There will likely be between 8 and 12 of these assignments offered this semester — depending upon how fast we move. *Only those six with the highest scores will count toward your final grade. It is your responsibility to ensure that you've engaged with at least six different discussions by the end of the semester.* For more information about Perusall and these assignments, see the appropriate document on the Canvas course homepage posted under "IMPORTANT CLASS LINKS."

### SHORT WRITING ASSIGNMENTS (SWAs)

There will be a total of three SWAs during the semester. These are to be no longer than three single-spaced pages. You must turn in at least two of these, but are encouraged to complete all three. Of the SWAs that you turn in, only those two with the highest scores will count toward

your final grade. These assignments are argumentative and primarily designed to track your philosophical writing skills; that is, for each SWA your main goal will be to defend — with reasons and arguments of your own — some philosophically interesting claim in connection with some course related topic (and to do so as clearly and perspicuously as possible). There will be different topics and guidelines for each SWA. Detailed instructions for each SWA will be provided to you in class and/or on Canvas a reasonable amount of time before it is due.

**Note on SWAs:** These are the hardest assignments in this class. You are encouraged to consult with me about SWAs — either before you turn them in or after. I'm happy to read drafts, give feedback, tips, etc., to help you succeed. This is especially recommended to students who have had little or no previous experience writing philosophy papers. There will also be a “page” on the Canvas course website with links to helpful resources for writing SWAs and other philosophy papers.

### Course Policies

Class Meetings — According to the University's stipulations, this qualifies as an “in-person” course. In the absence of further developments relating to the evolving COVID-19 crisis, then, we will plan on meeting in-person at our regularly scheduled times. In-person classes will not be recorded nor will students have the option to attend class via online modalities. However, if you need to seek an ADA accommodation to request an exception to this policy due to a disability, please contact the Center for Disability and Access (CDA). CDA will work with us to determine what, if any, ADA accommodations are reasonable and appropriate. Students who become quarantined due to a COVID-19 infection will receive accommodations on a case by case basis, provided that they are in contact with me about the situation in a timely manner.

Covid-19 Vaccinations — I \*strongly\* encourage any students who are currently unvaccinated to get vaccinated as soon as possible. While Utah law prohibits state universities from requiring COVID-19 vaccinations, it is highly effective in preventing severe COVID-19 symptoms, hospitalization, and death from coronavirus. Vaccinations are available to everyone 12 years and older. Appointments are open in the U of U Health system for patients as well as additional vaccine providers throughout Utah. For up-to-date campus vaccination information go to: <https://alert.utah.edu/covid/vaccine/>

Self-Reporting — Students *must* self-report if they test positive for COVID-19 via <https://coronavirus.utah.edu/>. Students are encouraged to take advantage of university COVID-19 testing services: <https://alert.utah.edu/covid-19-testing/>. Voluntary asymptomatic testing will continue to be available weekly for all members of the campus community.

Face Masks — At the time this sentence is being written, it is unclear whether we will be required to wear face coverings this semester. We will follow the official public health and safety guidelines regarding face masks and physical distancing, whatever those turn out to be, as the semester progresses. *According to the CDC, wearing a mask remains an effective means of preventing infection for both unvaccinated and vaccinated people. Regardless of what someone chooses (mask or no mask), the university seeks to foster a sense of community and asks everyone on campus to be respectful of individual decisions on mask wearing.*

Canvas – The Canvas course webpage is your contact point for this course, and so, it’s important that you familiarize yourself with it (for a tutorial page, visit the link pasted below). The “homepage” will provide a detailed course schedule that will be updated as we go. I will also use the Canvas homepage to distribute course materials and other relevant information (course schedule, coursework deadlines, readings, handouts, study guides, etc.).

Canvas Tutorial: <https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10701>

Attendance – Officially, I don’t take it. But trust me when I say it is in your best interest to attend class regularly. A lack of attendance *very likely* will be reflected in your final grade. If you have to show up late to class, that’s fine. Come in when you can, but please do so quietly. It’s better you show up late than miss an entire class.

Coursework Deadlines: In the absence of justifiable prior arrangements or cases of serious, unexpected and documented medical emergencies or bereavement, coursework must be turned in as scheduled. For circumstances that are not emergencies, students must send the instructor a request for an accommodation; this request should be sent a sufficient amount of time *\*before\** the officially scheduled due date for the student to learn whether the excuse is acceptable. Requests sent after an assignment’s deadline has passed will not be considered.

Academic Integrity: You are expected to do your own work on all assignments. The *minimum* penalty for cheating or plagiarism is a failing grade in the course. You will also be reported to the University’s Academic Misconduct Committee. Students are responsible for knowing and understanding the University’s policy on academic misconduct. For further information about this, consult the following website:

<https://regulations.utah.edu/academics/6-400.php>. Course Policies

### **Coursework Schedule**

Below, I’ve provided a general outline of when coursework will be due. However: *this schedule is NOT a binding legal contract*. I reserve the right to revise this schedule as I see fit. If there are any changes, they will be reflected in the official “Course Schedule” on the CANVAS course page.

#### **Weeks 1 - 2: FREGE**

Reading Discussion # 1

#### **Weeks 3 - 6: RUSSELL**

Canvas Quiz #1  
Reading Discussions 2 - 5

#### **Weeks 6 - 9 WITTGENSTEIN**

SWA #1  
Canvas Quiz #2  
Reading Discussion 6 - 7

#### **Weeks 10 - 16: MORE CONTEMPORARY WORK (TBD)**

Remaining Reading Discussions  
Canvas Quizzes 3 - 4  
SWA 2 (Week 10)  
SWA 3 (Week 16)

### **Other Policies and Resources**

#### **Problematic Historical Figure Statement**

Historical figures in philosophy, as well as many other intellectual domains, often held horrible views; views that, if held today, would be regarded as abhorrent. The fact is that many notable thinkers from history were racists, sexists, or any number of other terrible things. Some of the figures we will cover this semester are no exception. Fortunately, though, the abhorrent views of these particular figures are completely unrelated to the aspects of their views we'll be concerned with this semester. Still, it's important to acknowledge both the good and the bad in these figures — and that one's being an intellectual giant in one domain doesn't mean that one isn't a despicable, block-headed fool in another.

#### **Veterans Center**

If you are a **student veteran**, I want you to know that the U of Utah has a Veterans Support Center on campus. They are located in Room 161 in the Oplin Union Building. Hours: M-F 8-5pm. Please visit their website for more information about what support they offer, a list of ongoing events and links to outside resources: <http://veteranscenter.utah.edu/>. Please also let me know if you need any additional support in this class for any reason.

#### **LGBT Resource Center**

If you are a member of the **LGBTQ community**, I want you to know that my classroom is a safe zone\*. Additionally, please know that the U of Utah has an LGBT Resource Center on campus. They are located in Room 409 in the Oplin Union Building. Hours: M-F 8-5pm. You can visit their website to find more information about the support they can offer, a list of events through the center and links to additional resources: <http://lgbt.utah.edu/>. Please also let me know if there is any additional support you need in this class.

#### **Learners of English as an Additional/Second Language**

If you are an English language learner, please be aware of several resources on campus that will support you with your language development and writing. These resources include: the Department of Linguistics ESL Program (<http://linguistics.utah.edu/esl-program/>); the Writing Center (<http://writingcenter.utah.edu/>); the Writing Program (<http://writing-program.utah.edu/>); the English Language Institute (<http://continue.utah.edu/eli/>). Please let me know if there is any additional support you would like to discuss for this class.

#### **ADA**

The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in the class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability Services, 162 Union Building, 581-5020 (V/TDD). CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations. All written information in this course can be made available in an alternative format with prior notification to the Center for Disability Services.

#### **Nondiscrimination**

The University of Utah does not discriminate on the basis of race, ethnicity, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, genetic information or protected veteran's status, in employment, treatment, admission, access to educational programs and activities, or other University benefits or services. Inquiries concerning perceived discrimination or requests for disability accommodations may be referred to the University's Title IX/ADA/Section 504 Coordinator in the Office of Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action, 135 Park Building, 801- 581-8365, or the Office of the Dean of Students, 270 Union Building, 801-581-7066.

### **Sexual Misconduct/Title XI**

Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender (which includes sexual orientation and gender identity/expression) is a civil rights offense subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories such as race, national origin, color, religion, age, status as a person with a disability, veteran's status or genetic information. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you are encouraged to report it to the Title IX Coordinator in the Office of Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action, 135 Park Building, 801- 581-8365, or the Office of the Dean of Students, 270 Union Building, 801-581-7066. For support and confidential consultation, contact the Center for Student Wellness, 426 SSB, 801-581-7776. To report to the police, contact the Department of Public Safety, 801-585- 2677(COPS).

### **Wellness Statement**

Personal concerns such as stress, anxiety, relationship difficulties, depression, cross-cultural differences, etc., can interfere with a student's ability to succeed and thrive at the University of Utah. For helpful resources contact the Center for Student Wellness at [www.wellness.utah.edu](http://www.wellness.utah.edu) or 801-581-7776.

### **Lauren's Promise: I will listen and believe you if someone is threatening you**

Lauren McCluskey, a 21-year old honor student and athlete, was murdered in October of 2018 by a man she briefly dated on the University of Utah campus. *We must all take measures to ensure that this never happens again.* Any form of sexual harassment or violence will not be excused or tolerated at the University of Utah. If you are experiencing sexual assault, relationship violence, or stalking, you may report it to me and I will connect you with the appropriate resources. If you are in immediate danger, call 911.

### **Philosophy Resources: (helpful for research and getting a better handle on complex issues)**

Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy: <https://plato.stanford.edu/>

Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy: <https://www.iep.utm.edu/>