



UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY  
FACULTY OF ARTS  
Department of Philosophy

**PHILOSOPHY 407.3: A NINETEENTH OR TWENTIETH CENTURY PHILOSOPHER  
(LOGICAL POSITIVISM) - WINTER 2020  
THE UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY  
WINTER 2020**

**Contact Information**

**Instructor:** Dr. Ron Wilburn (BA in Philosophy, UCLA; Ph.D. in Philosophy, Univ. of Pennsylvania), “Ron” is OK

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**Office hours:** TTh 14:00 – 15:00 (I will dutifully sit next to my home phone during these hours. Leave messages at all other times.

**Meetings:** TTh 12:30 - 13:45 (Strictly speaking, there are no physical class meetings, due to the covid-19 outbreak. However, describing the course as on a two day a week schedule provides you with some idea of what appropriate pacing consists in.)

**Location:** TI STUDIO A (until March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020, at which point this course transitions to an online format)

**Acknowledgements**

This course plan owes a lot to my friend and colleague Dr. David Boutillier, who presently teaches at Okanagan College. Thanks, Dave.

**Description**

This is, as of March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020, an online course offered through the D2L teaching platform. The lectures take the form of narrated PowerPoint files.

In this course we will use Alberto Coffa’s classic book *The Semantic Tradition from Kant to Carnap: To the Vienna Station* to provide the narrative for an introductory telling of the story of the historical underpinnings of contemporary analytic philosophy. The course will be punctuated by the study of excerpts of texts and articles from Gottlob Frege, Bertrand Russell, Rudolph Carnap and other members of the “Vienna Circle.” The questions that we will explore include: What role does Kant play in the development of analytic philosophy? What role does the *a priori* play in the grounding of empirical knowledge and rational inquiry? What accounts for the *a priori* nature of mathematics and logic?

**Pre-requisites**

Two previous courses in Philosophy.

**Required Texts**

Alberto Coffa. *The Semantic Tradition from Kant to Carnap: To the Vienna Station*. New York: Cambridge University Press (1991). Used on Amazon.com from \$10.41; new: \$39.99. Carnap, Rudolf. *The Logical Structure of the World and Pseudoproblems in Philosophy*. London: Open Court (1967). \$27.65 new. Used on Amazon from \$19.00. A. J. Ayer. *Logical Positivism*. New York: The Free Press (1959). Used on Amazon from \$8.49; new: \$23.95. Postings of additional readings (when legal) will be made available.

**Optional Texts**

Students intending to go on to take Philosophy 464/525: 20 Century Analytic Philosophy might consider the following texts: Michael Beaney. (Ed.) *The Frege Reader*. Oxford: Blackwell Publishing Ltd. (1997). Used on Amazon.com from \$28.91; new: \$44.95. A. J. Ayer. *Logical Positivism*. New York: The Free Press (1959). Used on Amazon from \$8.49; new: \$23.95.

**Jan 13-April 15** (Strictly speaking, there are no physical class meetings, due to the covid-19 outbreak. However, describing the structure of the course as on a two day a week schedule provides you with some idea of what an appropriate pacing through course materials looks like. Exam release and due dates, however, are more or less written in stone.)

I will add to the schedule below (as I add lectures and readings to D2L) as the semester progresses. (Thus this file name: "accordion syllabus")

<b>Week/Dates</b>	<b>Topics</b>	<b>Requirements and Readings</b>
1. 01/14 01/16	Introduction Kant, the a priori, and the Doctrine of pure intuition	Introduction and Coffa, Ch. 1
2. 01/21 01/23	Kant, the a priori, and the Doctrine of pure intuition	Coffa, Ch. 1 (cont.) Immanuel Kant, Selection from <i>The Critique of Pure Reason</i> , Transcendental Deduction
3. 01/28 01/30	Kant, Bolzano, the a priori, and the Doctrine of pure intuition	Coffa, Ch. 2 Immanuel Kant, Selections from <i>The Transcendental Doctrine of the Elements (Part I, Tran- scendental Aesthetic, Part 1)</i>
4. 02/04 02/06	Kant, Bolzano, the a priori and the Doctrine of pure intuition	Coffa, Ch. 2 Immanuel Kant, Selection from <i>The Transcendental Doctrine of the Elements (Part I, Tran- scendental Aesthetic, Part 1)</i>
5. 02/11 02/13	Geometry, Pure Intuition and the a priori	Coffa, Ch. 3 Watch the film "Flatland" at <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mfglluny8Z0">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mfglluny8Z0</a> .

6.	02/ 24 02/27	Frege's Semantics and the a priori in Arithmetic .	Coffa, Chap. 4
7.	03/03 03/05	Frege's Semantics and the a priori in Arithmetic	Coffa, Chap. 4 Gottlob Frege, Selection from <i>The Foundations of Arithmetic</i>
8.	03/10 03/12	Frege's Semantics and the a priori in Arithmetic	Coffa, Chap. 4 Gottlob Frege, "On Sense and Reference"
9.	03/17 03/19	Semantics and Ontology	Coffa, Chap. 4
			<b>1<sup>st</sup> Take-home exam assigned (02/25)</b>
			<b>1<sup>st</sup> Take-home exam due (03/12)</b>
			<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Take-home exam assigned (03/28)</b>
			<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Take-home exam due (04/11)</b>

**Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes**

- Broad knowledge of the history of analytic philosophy and its precursors in the 19th and 20th centuries
- Ability to critically digest, interpret, and analyze complex sources (without confusion or indigestion)
- Ability to write a convincing argument that takes adequate account of alternative positions
- Ability to engage in constructive, respectful, oral and written argumentation

**Course Requirements**

The grade for the course is based on two midterm, each consisting of approximately twenty (20) short essay questions, both to be submitted online through the D2L quiz function. There are no in class exams and no final exam.

- 100% Two Take Home Short Essay Exams (50% each).

**Academic Accommodations**

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations according to the University policies and procedures. The student accommodation policy can be found at [ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.pdf](http://ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.pdf).

Students needing an Accommodation because of a disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: [ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/procedure-for-accommodations-for-](http://ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/procedure-for-accommodations-for-)

students-with-disabilities.pdf. Students needing an Accommodation in relation to their coursework or to fulfil requirements for a graduate degree, based on a protected ground other than disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to their instructor.

### **Absence or Missed Course Assessments**

Students who are absent from class assessments (tests, participation activities, or other assignments) should inform their instructors as soon as possible. Instructors may request that evidence in the form of documentation be provided. If the reason provided for the absence is acceptable, instructors may decide that any arrangements made can take forms other than make-up tests or assignments. For example, the weight of a missed grade may be added to another assignment or test. For information on possible forms of documentation, including statutory declarations, please see [ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/m-1.html](http://ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/m-1.html)

### **Student Support and Resources**

Full details and information about the following resources can be found at [ucalgary.ca/Registrar/registration/course-outlines](http://ucalgary.ca/Registrar/registration/course-outlines)

- Wellness and Mental Health Resources
- Student Success Centre
- Student Ombuds Office
- Student Union (SU) Information
- Graduate Students' Association (GSA) Information
- Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points
- Safewalk

### **Academic Advising**

If you are a student in the Faculty of Arts, you can speak to an academic advisor in the Arts Students' Centre about course planning, course selection, registration, program progression and more. Visit the Faculty of Arts website at [arts.ucalgary.ca/advising](http://arts.ucalgary.ca/advising) for contact details and information regarding common academic concerns.

For questions specific to the philosophy program, please visit [phil.ucalgary.ca](http://phil.ucalgary.ca). Further academic guidance is available by contacting David Dick (Undergraduate Program Director [dgdick@ucalgary.ca](mailto:dgdick@ucalgary.ca)) or Jeremy Fantl (Honours Advisor [jfantl@ucalgary.ca](mailto:jfantl@ucalgary.ca)). If you have questions regarding registration, please email Rebecca Lesser (Undergraduate Program Administrator [phildept@ucalgary.ca](mailto:phildept@ucalgary.ca)).

### **Writing Assessment and Support**

The assessment of all written assignments—and, to a lesser extent, written exam responses—is based in part on writing skills. This includes correctness (grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, etc.), as well as general clarity and organization. Research papers must include a thorough and accurate citation of sources. Students are also encouraged to use Writing Support Services for assistance (one-on-one appointments, drop-in support and writing workshops). For more information, and other services offered by the Student Success Centre, please visit [ucalgary.ca/ssc](http://ucalgary.ca/ssc).

### **Online Resources and Electronic Devices**

Important information and communication about this course may be posted on D2L (Desire2Learn), UCalgary's online learning management system. Visit [ucalgary.service-now.com/it](http://ucalgary.service-now.com/it) for how-to information and technical assistance.

The instructor reserves the right to establish specific course policies regarding the use of electronic devices. If permitted, the use of devices must be exclusively for instructional purposes, and without disruption to the instructor or fellow students. Devices should be set to silent mode during lectures. Audio or video recording of lectures is not permitted without the written permission of the instructor. Students violating this policy are subject to discipline under the University of Calgary's Non-Academic Misconduct policy.

### **Academic Misconduct/Honesty**

Cheating or plagiarism on any assignment or examination is as an extremely serious academic offense, the penalty for which will be an F on the assignment or an F in the course, and possibly a disciplinary sanction such as probation, suspension, or expulsion. For information on academic misconduct and its consequences, please see the University of Calgary Calendar at [ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html](http://ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html).

Intellectual honesty requires that your work include adequate referencing to sources. Plagiarism occurs when you do not acknowledge or correctly reference your sources. If you have questions about referencing, please consult your instructor.

### **University Policies**

The Instructor Intellectual Property Policy is available at [ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/Intellectual%20Property%20Policy.pdf](http://ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/Intellectual%20Property%20Policy.pdf)

The University of Calgary is under the jurisdiction of the provincial Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act, as outlined at [ucalgary.ca/legalservices/foip](http://ucalgary.ca/legalservices/foip). The instructor (or TA) must return graded assignments directly to the student UNLESS written permission to do otherwise has been provided.

All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright ([ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright.pdf](http://ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright.pdf)) and requirements of the copyright act ([laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html](http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html)).