



PHIL 418

Frege

Wednesdays 14:00–17:00, BUCH D205

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Office hours TBD

**Course Description:** The linguistic turn in philosophy begins with the publication in 1884 of a book on the foundations of arithmetic by a relatively obscure German mathematician, Gottlob Frege. Arguably no figure is more important for 20<sup>th</sup> century analytic philosophy than Frege, whose innovations in logic, the philosophy of mathematics, and the philosophy of language, have been nothing short of foundational. This course is dedicated to the study of some of Frege's original works with an eye to how they ended up defining various projects in contemporary philosophy. While Frege's writings are clearly written, they require some technical facility. Familiarity with logic at the level of PHIL 220 should provide sufficient background for an adequate appreciation of his transformative contributions to philosophy.

**Official prerequisite:** PHIL 340.

**Texts:** Michael Beaney (ed.), *The Frege Reader* (Blackwell 1997), available at the UBC Bookstore. The only other text is Gottlob Frege, *The Foundations of Arithmetic*, 2<sup>nd</sup> rev. ed. (New York: Harper Torchbooks, 1960), available through the UBC Library Online Course Reserves (LOCR).

**Course Requirements:** Every student in the course will be required to do all the readings and attend the lectures regularly. Attendance is crucial for success in this course. Beyond attendance and participation (accounting for 10% of your final grade), further requirements include a midterm exam on October 12 (25%), a short paper due on November 23 (25%), and a final exam (40%).

**A Note About Plagiarism:** [Source: *UBC Calendar*] Plagiarism, which is intellectual theft, occurs where an individual submits or presents the oral or written work of another person as his or her own. Scholarship quite properly rests upon examining and referring to the thoughts and writings of others. However, when another person's words (i.e. phrases, sentences, or paragraphs), ideas, or entire works are used, the author must be acknowledged in the text, in footnotes, in endnotes, or in another accepted form of academic citation. Where direct quotations are made, they must be clearly delineated (for example, within quotation marks or separately indented). Failure to provide proper attribution is plagiarism because it represents someone else's work as one's own. Plagiarism should not occur in submitted drafts or final works. A student who seeks assistance from a tutor or other scholastic aids must ensure that the work submitted is the student's own. Students

are responsible for ensuring that any work submitted does not constitute plagiarism. Students who are in any doubt as to what constitutes plagiarism should consult their instructor before handing in any assignments. Details about Academic misconduct:

<http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/Vancouver/index.cfm?tree=3,54,111,959>

**Student Support:** UBC provides resources to support student learning and to maintain healthy lifestyles but recognizes that sometimes crises arise and so there are additional resources to access including those for survivors of sexual violence. UBC values respect for the person and ideas of all members of the academic community. Harassment and discrimination are not tolerated nor is suppression of academic freedom. UBC provides appropriate accommodation for students with disabilities and for religious and cultural observances. UBC values academic honesty and students are expected to acknowledge the ideas generated by others and to uphold the highest academic standards in all of their actions. Details of the policies and how to access support:

<https://senate.ubc.ca/policies-resources-support-student-success>.

Lectures	Content
Sept. 7	• Introduction + <i>The Foundations of Arithmetic</i> : Introduction
Sept. 14	• <i>The Foundations of Arithmetic</i> : §§1-11, §§21-28
Sept. 21	• <i>The Foundations of Arithmetic</i> : §§45-61
Sept. 28	• <i>The Foundations of Arithmetic</i> : §§62-69
Oct. 5	• <i>The Foundations of Arithmetic</i> : §§70-77, §§87-91
Oct. 12	• <b>Midterm exam</b>
Oct. 19	• <i>Begriffsschrift</i> §9; “Function and Concept”
Oct. 26	• “On Concept and Object”
Nov. 2	• <i>Begriffsschrift</i> §8; “On Sense and Reference” (I)
Nov. 9	• <b>Midterm break</b>
Nov. 16	• “On Sense and Reference” (II)
Nov. 23	• <i>Begriffsschrift</i> §§1-7; “Negation”; <b>short paper due</b>
Nov. 30	• “The Thought”
Dec. 7	• “The Thought” + Conclusion