Lecture 20: Philosophy and Syntax

1. Sources of error and spurious disagreement

   (a) Confusing universal words for property words
   (b) Confusing language-relative statements for absolute statements
   (c) Confusing suggestions for factual claims

2. Diagnosis of traditional philosophical debates

   (a) Realism vs. Idealism
   (b) Logicism vs. Formalism
   (c) Theism vs. Atheism

3. Virtues of Carnap's approach

   (a) A principled approach to determining which questions are worth pursuing?
       – Does C's approach give a guide for *future* philosophy?

4. Questions for Carnap's approach

   (a) Is he only sketching a program for *professional/scientific* philosophy, or is he recommending an attitude toward life?
       – even if only a suggestion for professional philosophy, what do we think of this program?
   (b) Differentiating pseudo-object-questions from pseudo-questions
   (c) The nature of proposals/suggestions

       i. What *reasons* can we have for making a proposal, or for adopting a proposal?
       ii. Might one language be *objectively better* at describing reality than another?

5. Next up: Carnap on anchoring language to empirical reality — *rules* for introducing new terms into the language of empirical science