

Website: https://sites.google.com/a/princeton.edu/phi338_f2014/home
or <http://goo.gl/z9U9wJ>

Professor: Hans Halvorson

Assistant in Instruction: Robbie Hirsch

Lectures: M/W 3–4:20pm

Prerequisites: At least one previous philosophy course. Some acquaintance with symbolic logic, or willingness to pick it up along the way.

Course assessment:

- Two papers, each approximately 2000 words. One paper must be turned in before fall break; and each paper must be on the topic of the week that you turn it in. Besides those requirements, you have complete freedom to choose when to submit these papers. 60%
- Comprehensive final exam. 30% Wed, Jan 14 1:30 p.m. Frist Campus Center 302
- Participation in small group discussions. 10%

Outline of readings All readings will be posted on the course website.

1. Backdrop to logical positivism
 - (a) Russell, “On denoting”, “Knowledge by acquaintance and knowledge by description”
 - (b) Russell, “Mathematics and the metaphysicians”, “The relation of sense-data to physics”, and “On the scientific method in philosophy.”
 - (c) Poincaré, “Space” from *Science and hypothesis*; Schlick, *Space and time in contemporary physics*, chaps 1–5; Einstein, “Geometry and experience”
 - (d) Wittgenstein, *Tractatus logico-philosophicus*.
2. Carnap’s construction project
The logical structure of the world.
3. Rejection of metaphysics
Schlick, “The turning point in philosophy”; Carnap, *Pseudoproblems in philosophy*, “The elimination of metaphysics through the logical analysis of language”, and “The old and the new logic”.
4. Philosophy as logical syntax
Carnap, *Logical syntax of language*, “The task of the logic of science”, “Testability and meaning”, “Logical foundations of the unity of science”, and “Empiricism, semantics and ontology.”
5. Post-positivism
 - (a) Quine, “On what there is”, “Two dogmas of empiricism”, “Carnap and logical truth”, and “On Carnap’s views on ontology”
 - (b) Sellars, “Philosophy and the scientific image of man”