

## FIL2506/4630/31/32 – The Legacy of Frege and Russell

**Note:** by looking at the things we will be reading, you might well suspect that this is a standard seminar in the philosophy of language. This is not so. The principal focus is on issues that Frege and Russell set out to solve concerning the nature of thought and its relation to truth and the world. See the course description for further details.

### Literature:

The papers are listed in the order in which they will be read. Starred papers (i.e. 'On Referring'\*) are ones we may end up omitting. Other changes may occur, depending on the dynamics of the seminar.

All the literature used will be available online. Furthermore, much of it can be found in anthologies, such as Martinich (ed.) 'The Philosophy of Language' (OUP), which you may have from previous courses.

There will be a final group of papers focussing on truth and its relation to meaning. Which papers we read will in part depend on the participants and their background.

I recommend that you read Tyler Burge's excellent paper 'Philosophy of Language and Mind: 1950-1990' (Phil. Review) early on in the semester. It is required reading for the course, but will serve as *background reading*.

### 1. *Frege and Russell: their own work and concerns*

'On Sense and Reference', Frege (1892)

'The Thought', Frege (1918)

'On Denoting', Russell(1905)

'Knowledge by Acquaintance and Knowledge by Description', Russell (1919)

### *Secondary literature in connection with (1):*

'Splitting conceptual content into sense and reference', Mark Textor (2011)\*

'Sinning against Frege', Tyler Burge (1979) or

'Frege on Sense and Linguistic Meaning' Tyler Burge (1990)

'Russell As A Platonic Dialogue: The Matter of Denoting', Coffa (1980)\*

'Frege and Russell', Peter Hyton ( )

'The Theory of Descriptions', Peter Hylton ( )

### 2. *Strawson's response to Russell\*:*

'On Referring', Strawson(1950)\*

'Mr Strawson on Referring', Russell (1957)\*

3. *Quine and Analyticity\**:

'Two Dogmas of Empiricism'\*

'Carnap on Logical Truth'\*

4. *Externalism: on the constitutive relation between meaning (or content) and the world*

'The Meaning of 'Meaning'', Putnam (1975 )

'Other Bodies', Burge (1982)

'Mental Content', McGinn (198?)\*

'Wide Content', Egan ( )\*

'Narrow Content' Segal ( )\*

5. *Some critical responses to Frege's notion of sense:*

'Names and identity', Strawson (1974)

'The Mode of Presentation Problem', Schiffer ( )

'LOT Meet's Frege's Problem (Among Others)', Fodor(2008)

6. *On the relation between meaning and truth:*

TBA