

Philosophy 518: Twentieth-Century Philosophy

Topic: Everything You Wanted to Know about the *Aufbau* but Didn't Know How to Ask

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Office Hours WF 10-11 and by appointment

This course seeks to do two things. Its primary purpose is to provide a good foundation for understanding Carnap's constitutional project in the *Aufbau* and to think through its significance in twentieth-century philosophy. Its secondary purpose is to provide an example of how one goes about doing history of philosophy.

The immediate occasion for the course is the production of a new translation and first critical edition of the *Aufbau* for The Open Court's *Collected Works of Rudolf Carnap*. We will not foreground translation issues but we will attend to questions of what sorts of notes will render the text more intelligible to readers.

Work for the Course

Participation—attendance at every meeting is mandatory; thoughtful participation is expected (10%)

This is not a competition for who says the most; those who come prepared and who have something worthwhile to say will do well.

Seminar report—each student does one (10%)

For this course, a seminar report is a chance to lead discussion for about 40 minutes. It is not a presentation so much as it is an effort to find a set of issues that allow us to see something of significance in the readings. There will be one or two per week; see attached schedule.

Research Paper Proposal and Annotated Bibliography of five (5) items from secondary literature (20%) – due 1 March

750 word abstract, bibliography of at least 5 items from the secondary literature with a sentence or two on the contents of those items.

Research Paper (60%)—8000 word maximum (including footnotes and bibliography), due 15 April.

Ideally, the research paper should cover some aspect of Carnap's work. This means you need to be thinking about what in Carnap you might be interested in before we start reading his work.

A Note on Grading

I grade in the following manner. An A+ is ever so rare and basically means that your work is outstanding as graduate student work and you are on the verge of having a publishable paper. (It is extremely hard to write publishable papers in history of analytic philosophy.) An A means that your work is good as graduate student work and that you might consider doing more work in this area. An A- means that your work is adequate as graduate student work. Anything less than an A- is basically an invitation to understand that this sort of work is not for you (perhaps there is other philosophy you can do well, but you should leave Carnap be).

Readings for the Course

4 Jan: Background Quine, Goodman, Kant

Quine, "Two Dogmas," "Epistemology Naturalized"

Goodman, "The Significance of *Der logische Aufbau der Welt*"

11 Jan: Was ist Metaphysik gewesen? Mach, Bergson

Mach, *The Analysis of Sensations*, Chapter One

Bergson, *Introduction to Metaphysics*

18 Jan: Mathematics and Measurement: Poincaré

Science and Hypothesis, Chapters One through Five

25 Jan: Logical Idealism and the Logic of Objective Knowledge: Cassirer

Substance and Function, Chapters 1, 2, and 6

1 Feb: The New Logic and the New Philosophy: Russell and Logicism

Russell, "On Denoting" ; "Knowledge by Acquaintance and Knowledge by Description"; "On the Theory of Logical Types"

8 Feb: Russell, Schlick, and Scientific Epistemology

Russell, *Our Knowledge of the External World*, Chapters 1, 2, and 4

Schlick, *The General Theory of Knowledge*, Chapter 1, sections 5 through 11

15 Feb: Rethinking the Synthetic A Priori: Reichenbach and Cassirer on Einstein
Reichenbach, *The Theory of Relativity and A Priori Knowledge*, Chapters 3
through 6
Cassirer, *Einstein's Theory of Relativity*, Chapter 5

22 Feb: Carnap's dissertation, *Der Raum*

1 March: Carnap's pre-Aufbau work in methodology of science, a sampling ("On the Task of Physics" and "Physical Concept Formation")

8 March: Aufbau 1 (Parts 1 and 2)

15 March: Aufbau 2 (Part 3)

22 March: Aufbau 3 (Part 4)

29 March: Aufbau 4 (Part 5)

5 April: Carnap's Road to Syntax