

PHI 523
THE METAPHYSICAL BASIS OF LOGIC

Spring 2022

Instructor: Boris Kment

Topics

We will be talking about issues at the intersection of metaphysics with logic (very broadly conceived), paying special attention to the ways in which ideas and results in one of these disciplines can motivate views, and help us resolve problems, in the others.

As a special treat, the seminar will feature a number of guest speakers, including Gillian Russell, Jeremy Goodman, and others that remain to be confirmed.

The readings below will appear on the Canvas site very soon.

Apart from the first two sessions, the order of sessions is tentative.

Sessions

Session 1. Introduction and overview

Session 2. Self-referential paradoxes: some classic classical and non-classical approaches

Boolos, "The Iterative Conception of Set," pp. 215–24, 228–31

<http://www.jstor.org/stable/pdf/2025204.pdf?acceptTC=true>

Russell, "Mathematical Logic as Based on the Theory of Types"

Kripke, "Outline of a Theory of Truth"

Session 3. Grounding and its paradoxes I

Rosen, "Metaphysical Dependence: Grounding and Reduction"

Kment, *Modality and Explanatory Reasoning*, ch. 6

Fine, "Some Puzzles about Ground"

Session 4. Grounding and its paradoxes II

Fine, "Some Puzzles about Ground"

Woods, "Emptying a Paradox of Ground"

Session 5. Gillian Russell visiting

Readings TBD

Session 6. Jeremy Goodman visiting

Readings TBD

Session 7. The Russell-Myhill Paradox

Klement, “Russell-Myhill Paradox,” *Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy*

Uzquiano, “A neglected resolution of Russell’s paradox of propositions”

Yu, “A Modal Account of Propositions”

Kment, “Russell-Myhill and Grounding”

Optional

Goodman, “Reality is not structured”

Dorr, “To be F is to be G,” selections

Session 8. Curry’s paradox

Nolan, “Conditionals and Curry”

Field, *Saving Truth from Paradox*, chs. 4, 15–18.

Whittle, “Dialetheism, Logical Consequence and Hierarchy”

Session 9. Doxastic paradoxes and Gideon’s Paradox

Sorensen, *Blind Spots*, selections

Burge, “Epistemic Paradox”

Kment, “Instrumental Rationality and Doxastic Paradox”

Optional

Gaifman, “Paradoxes of Infinity and Self-Applications”

Bar-Hillel and Margalit, “Gideon's Paradox: A Paradox of Rationality”

Session 10. Non-symmetrical relations

Williamson, “Converse Relations”

Fine, “Neutral Relations”

Dorr, “Non-Symmetric Relations”