Lecturer: Dr. Alessandra Marra

MCMP/ LMU Munich

Winter Semester 2024/2025

Philosophy of Logic

Seminar Description and Objectives

There is, perhaps a bit surprisingly, considerable controversy over what logic is, what makes logic different from the sciences, how many logics there are, and other foundational questions that relate to logic. Philosophy of logic is the philosophical investigation into the assumptions of logic and their implications. In this seminar, we will read and discuss contemporary original articles on a selection of topics in philosophy of logic. At the end of the seminar, students will have a critical understanding of the core issues related to the notion of logicality, the possibility of rationally revising logical principles, the alleged exceptional status of logical theories with respect to scientific theories, and logical pluralism.

Seminar Structure and Evaluation

The seminar will consist of a round-table discussion of the relevant readings. Students are expected to have read the required readings before coming to the seminar and to participate actively in the discussion.

The final grade is determined by: (i) a graded mid-term essay (30%) + (ii) peer review of mid-term essays (ungraded) + (iii) graded final essay (70%). All three components (i)-(iii) are mandatory to pass the seminar.

General Information

• Time: 10:00–12:00 cum tempore

• Location: in-person, room 020, Geschw.-Scholl-Pl. 1 (A).

• Lecturer: Alessandra Marra (Alessandra.Marra@lrz.uni-muenchen.de)

– You can address me as "Dr. Marra" or as "Alessandra".

– Please let me know if you have a preferred pronoun.

• Office hours: By appointment

Schedule

Please note that the schedule might be subject to change.

17.10 *Introduction*

PART 1: Logical Constants

24.10 *Setting the Stage: Tarski on Logical Consequence and Logical Notions.*

Required Readings: Alfred Tarski: *On the Concept of Logical Consequence* (1936) [only from paragraph starting with "I should like to sketch here a general method which, it seems to me, enables us to construct an adequate definition of the concept of consequence…" onwards] **and** Alfred Tarski: *What Are Logical Notions?* (1986)

Further optional reading: John MacFarlane's SEP entry: *Logical Constants*

31.10 *The Invariance Criterion.*

Required Reading: Gila Sher: Chapter 3 of *Logical Consequence* (2022)

Further optional reading: Gil Sagi: *The Modal and Epistemic Arguments Against the Invariance Criterion for Logical Terms* (2015), Gila Sher: Chapter 3 of *The Bounds of Logic* (1991)

07.11 *Inferential Characterizations: The Case of Tonk.*

Required Readings: Arthur Prior: *The Runabout Inference-ticket* (1960) **and** Nuel Belnap: *Tonk, Plonk and Plink* (1962).

Further optional readings: J Stevenson: *Roundabout the Runabout Inference-Ticket* (1961). Michael De & Hitoshi Omori: *Knot much like tonk* (2022).

14.11 *Došen's Proof-theoretical Criterion: Logical Constants as Punctuation Marks*

Required Reading: Kosta Došen: *Logical Constants as Punctuation Marks* (1994)

Further optional readings: Norbert Gratzl & Eugenio Orlandelli: *Logicality, Double-Line Rules, and Modalities* (2019). Daniel Cohnitz & Luis Estrada-González: *An Introduction to the Philosophy of Logic* (2019), chapter 4. Denis Bonnay & Benjamin Simmenauer: *Tonk Strikes Back* (2005).

21.11 *Pseudo-Problem?*

Required Reading: Stephen Read: *Formal and Material Consequence* (1994).

Further optional reading: Jc Beall, Greg Restall, and Gil Sagi's SEP entry: *Logical Consequence.* Gila Sher: Chapter 5 of *Logical Consequence* (2022). Ken Warmbrod*: Logical Constants* (1999) (for a pragmatist account of logicality); John Etchemendy: *Tarski on Truth and Logical Consequence* (1988).

PART 2: Pluralism, Monism, Nihilism

28.11 *Logical Pluralism*

Required Reading: JC Beall and Greg Restall: *Logical Pluralism* (2000)

Further optional readings: W.V. Quine: chapter *Deviant Logics*, in *Philosophy of Logic* (1986). Susan Haack: *Philosophy of Logics* (1978), chapter 9. Erik Stei: Chapters 1-3 of *Logical Pluralism and Logical Consequence* (2023).

05.12 *Monism*

Required Readings: Graham Priest: *Logic: One or Many?* (2001)

Further optional readings: Stephen Read: *Monism: The One True Logic* (2006).

12.12 *Nihilism*

Required Reading: Gillian Russell: *Logical Nihilism: Could There Be No Logic?* (2018)

Further optional readings: Tristan G Haze: *Reversing logical nihilism* (2022); Gillian Russell: *An Introduction to Logical Nihilism* (2017); Gillian Russell: *One True Logic?* (2008)

PART 3: Epistemology of Logic

19.12 *The Justification of Deduction.*

Required Readings: Susan Haack: *The Justification of Deduction* (1976) **and** Lewis Carroll: *What the Tortoise Said to Achilles* (1895).

Further optional readings: Michael Dummett: *The Justification of Deduction* (1974); Susan Haack: *Dummett's Justification of Deduction* (1982); Paul Boghossian: *Knowledge of Logic* (2000); Jared Warren: *Logical Conventionalism* (forthcoming)

16.01 *Can Logic Be Rationally Revised?*

Required Reading: Graham Priest: *Revising Logic* (2014), in P. Rush (Ed.), *The Metaphysics of Logic.*

Further optional readings: Graham Priest: *Doubt truth to be a liar* (2006), chapter 11; Daniel Cohnitz & Luis Estrada-González: *An Introduction to the Philosophy of Logic* (2019), chapter 5.

23.01 *Which Evidence?*

Required Reading: Ole Thomassen Hjortland: *What Counts as Evidence for a Logical Theory?* (2019).

Further optional reading: Ole Thomassen Hjortland: *Anti-Exceptionalism about Logic* (2017).

30.01 *The Adoption Problem*

Required Reading: Romina Birman: *The Adoption Problem and the Epistemology of Logic* (2024)

Further optional readings: Saul Kripke: *The Question of Logic* (2024); Paul Boghossian & Crispin Wright: *Kripke, Quine, the 'Adoption Problem' and the Empirical Conception of Logic* (2024); Suki Finn: *The Adoption Problem and Anti-Exceptionalism about Logic* (2019).

06.02 Topic *TBA* depending on students' interests.