An Opinionated List
of Recommended Readings
for Beginning Grad Students doing Analytic Philosophy

In some cases, a supplementary secondary source is suggested, to help with understanding the primary source. One general supplementary overview is Jason Stanley’s long article “Philosophy of Language in the 20th Century”. You can easily find it on the web; google it. Another useful general source is Martinich and Sosa (eds.), A Companion to Analytic Philosophy.

Sometimes an example of important later follow-up work is suggested.

The readings are vaguely grouped according to topic and/or historical thread.

The few bold items are more “required” than recommended.

I have electronic copies of nearly everything here. Ask me if you need helping getting ahold of something.

   1.1. Supplementary/Follow-up: Chalmers, “On Sense and Intention” (google it)
   2.2. Supplementary: Russell, “Descriptions”, (ch.16 of his Introduction to Mathematical Philosophy)
3. Marcus, “Modalities and Intensional Languages” (Synthese, 1961; Marcus’s collection Modalities, OUP 1993, includes as an appendix the transcript of a public discussion of the paper in 1962 with Marcus, Quine, Kripke, and others.)
   4.4. Follow-up: Kripke, “A Puzzle about Belief” (find an anthology)

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5. Quine, “On What There Is” (1948, reprinted in From a Logical Point of View)
6. Carnap, “Empiricism, Semantics, and Ontology” (1950, google it)
7. Quine, “Two Dogmas of Empiricism”, (1952, in FLPV)
   7.1. Follow-up: Grice and Strawson, “In Defense of a Dogma” (1956, Phil Review)


8. Quine, “Translation and Meaning” (1960, ch.2 of *Word and Object*)
   8.2. Supplementary: Soames, “The Philosophical Naturalism of Quine”, chapters 10 and 11 of *Philosophical Analysis in the 20th Century, vol. 2*

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9. Grice, “Meaning” (1957, collected in in Grice’s *Studies in the Way of Words*)
   9.2. Follow-up: Lewis, “Languages and Language”

    10.1. Supplementary: Soames, "Language use and the logic of conversation", Ch. 9 of *Philosophical Analysis in the 20th Century, vol. 2*

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11. Davidson, “Truth and Meaning” (1967, *Synthese*; or just find it in an anthology)
    11.1. Follow-up: Foster, “Meaning and Truth Theory”, in Evans and McDowell (eds.), *Truth and Meaning*

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    12.1. Follow-up: Burge, “Individualism and the Mental” (1979, find in anthology), (abridged versions found in anthologies are acceptable; Burge’s paper “Other Bodies” (1982) is also an acceptable substitute, and perhaps a better introduction)


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    15.2. Follow-up: Pryor, “What’s Wrong with Moore’s Argument?” ([www.jimpryor.net](http://www.jimpryor.net))


**17. Goodman, “The New Riddle of Induction” (ch.3 of his book *Fact, Fiction and Forecast*)**


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20.1. Supplementary: Block, “What is Functionalism?” (google his website)

20.2. Follow-up: Either Block, “Troubles for Functionalism” (find an abridged version in an anthology), or Searle, “Minds, Brains and Programs”


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**24. Rawls, ch.1 of *A Theory of Justice***

24.1. Follow-up: Nozick, *Anarchy, State, Utopia*


26. Mackie, “The Subjectivity of Value”, (ch.1 of *Ethics*)

27. Foot, “Morality as a System of Hypothetical Imperatives”, (1972, *Phil. Review*)

28. Gibbard or Blackburn, on expressivism (e.g., Gibbard’s Precis of *Wise Choices, Apt Feelings*, 1993, *Philosophical Issues*)

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ITEMS BELOW MAY BE, FOR SOME STUDENTS, LESS URGENT; THEY’RE ALSO LONGER READS:

31. Wittgenstein, *Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus*


31.2. Supplementary: Sullivan, “A Version of the Picture Theory” (google around for Peter Sullivan’s homepage)

32. Wittgenstein, the first 300 sections or so of *Philosophical Investigations*
33. Kripke, *Wittgenstein on Rules and Private Language*

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34. Sellars, “Empiricism and the Philosophy of Mind” (1956)
   34.1. Supplementary: Brandom’s Study Guide
   34.2. Follow-up: McDowell, *Mind and World* (maybe just the first 50 pages)

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