



**Universität
Zürich** ^{UZH}

Institute of Philosophy
Doctoral Program "Philosophy – Language, Mind and Practice"

Master Class

Ground and Truthmaking

Kit Fine

New York University

27th – 28th November 2015

Synopsis

The course is in two main parts: the first dealing with the notion of *ground* in metaphysics; and the second dealing with the related notion of *truthmaking* in semantics. The focus will be on Fine's own work on these topics (much of which is unpublished), although it will be related to the work of others.

The concept of *ground* has recently assumed central importance in the discussion of metaphysical issues. In the first part of the course, we shall be interested in delineating the concept of *ground*, determining its fundamental properties, and explaining its significance for metaphysics.

There has also been a resurgence of interest in developing a truthmaker semantics, in which *states* take the place of possible worlds as the potential verifiers or falsifiers of sentences. We shall set out the basic framework in which such an approach may be pursued and then consider two central applications – to counterfactuals and to imperatives.

Some of the reading is quite technical and it is perfectly in order, for the non-technically minded student, to skim over the more technical parts of the reading.

Schedule and Readings

Session 1: The Concept of Ground

- Fine, K. 2012a. "Guide to Ground", in Correia/Schnieder (eds.): *Metaphysical Grounding*, 37-80.
Schaffer, J. 2009. "On What Grounds What", in Chalmers, Manley, and Wasserman (eds.): *Metaphysics: New Essays on the Foundations of Ontology*, 347-83.
Rosen, R. 2010. "Metaphysical Dependence: Grounding and Reduction", in Hale/Hoffmann (eds.): *Modality: Metaphysics, Logic, and Epistemology*, 109-135.

Session 2: The Logic of Ground

- Fine, K. 2012a. "Guide to Ground", in Correia/Schnieder (eds.): *Metaphysical Grounding*, 37-80.
-- 2010 "Some Puzzles of Ground", in *Notre Dame Journal of Formal Logic* 51:1, 97-118.
-- 2012b "The Pure Logic of Ground", in *Review of Symbolic Logic*, 25:1, 1-25.

Session 3: The Significance of Ground

- Fine, K. 2012a. "Guide to Ground", in Correia/Schnieder (eds.): *Metaphysical Grounding*, 37-80.
-- 2001. "The Question of Realism", in *Philosophers' Imprint* 1, 1-30.
Schaffer, J. 2009. "On What Grounds What", in Chalmers, Manley, and Wasserman (eds.): *Metaphysics: New Essays on the Foundations of Ontology*, 347-83.
Rosen, R. 2010. "Metaphysical Dependence: Grounding and Reduction", in Hale/Hoffmann (eds.): *Modality: Metaphysics, Logic, and Epistemology*, 109-135.

Session 4: The Basic Framework

- Fine, K. 2015a. "Angelic Content", to appear in *Journal of Philosophical Logic*.
-- 2015b. "Truth-Conditional Content – Parts I and II", to appear in a volume for David Kaplan.
-- 2015d. "Survey on Truthmaker Semantics", to appear in Hale/Wright (eds.): *Companion to the Philosophy of Language*.

Session 5: Application to Counterfactuals

- Fine, K. 2012c. "Counterfactuals without Possible Worlds", in *Journal of Philosophy*, 109(3), 221-46.
Lewis D. 1973, *Counterfactuals*.
Stalnaker R., 1968. "A Theory of Conditionals" in N. Rescher (ed.) *Studies in Logical Theory*, 98-112.

Session 6: Application to Imperatives

- Fine, K. 2015b. "Truth-Conditional Content – Parts I and II", to appear in a volume for David Kaplan.
Charlow N. 2014. "The of Imperatives", in *Philosophy Compass* 9.8, 540-55.

Program

Friday, 27th November 2015

Ground

9:30 – 12:30 The Concept of Ground
14:00 – 16:00 The Logic of Ground
16:30 – 18:30 The Significance of Ground

Saturday, 28th November 2015

Truthmaking

9:30 – 12:30 The Basic Framework
14:00 – 16:00 Application to Counterfactuals
16:30 – 18:30 Application to Imperatives

Registration: phd@philos.uzh.ch

Details: <http://www.philosophie.uzh.ch/doktorat/meisterkurse.html>

Venue: Philosophisches Seminar, Zürichbergstrasse 43, 8044 Zürich

Room: ZUP-U-8

No fees apply. Participants are expected to have read the texts.

PhD students at the UZH are required to book the module in order to get credit points.