Preliminary Reading in Philosophy

Pembroke College, 2018-19

This preliminary reading list is intended for Pembroke students taking Mathematics and Philosophy. In your first year course, you will take two papers: Introduction to Philosophy (divided into General Philosophy and Frege’s Foundations of Arithmetic) and Elements of Deductive Logic. You are strongly encouraged to try to read as much as you can of the preparatory reading given below; doing so will certainly help make your first year easier!

General Philosophy

The course concentrates on topics connected to knowledge, reasoning, mind and body, personal identity, free will and the existence of God. Useful introductory texts are:

- Thomas Nagel, What Does It All Mean?
- E. Conee and T. Sider, Riddles of Existence
- Bertrand Russell, Problems of Philosophy [available online]

All three contain discussions of topics in general philosophy which will be covered in your first year, in particular the first six chapters of Russell’s book, chapters 1 and 6 of the Conee and Sider book and chapters 2, 3, 4 and 6 of the Nagel book.

Frege: Foundations of Arithmetic

This course approaches issues in the philosophy of mathematics via the seminal work of the German logician Gottlob Frege. The set text is:

- Gottlob Frege, Foundations of Arithmetic (tr. J. L. Austin)

An accessible introduction to Frege’s work is

- Edward Kanterian, Frege: A Guide for the Perplexed

Elements of Deductive Logic

This includes introduction to logic, which has one set text:

- Volker Halbach, The Logic Manual

Introduction to logic is followed by a more advanced course on elements of deductive logic. Two good textbooks covering the material taught are:

- Herbert Enderton, A Mathematical Introduction to Logic
- Moshe Machover, Set Theory, Logic and Their Limitations
- David Bostock, Intermediate Logic, Oxford University Press

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