

**24.400: Proseminar in Philosophy I**

Fall 2013

*Language, Truth, and Logic*

1. (a) Enlarge the punctures in the principle of verification. Does Ayer succeed in patching them up in the Introduction? (b) Is it true that there is “no way of proving that the existence of a god, such as the God of Christianity, is even probable”?
2. Why does Ayer say that assertions of value are neither true nor false? What *are* assertions of value? What are some difficulties with Ayer’s account?
3. “Just as I must define material things and my own self in terms of their empirical manifestations, so I must define other people in terms of their empirical manifestations”. What account does Ayer give of material things, the self, and other minds? Is it adequate?

*Philosophical Investigations*

4. What is a “language game”? Explain and assess the main points in §§1-77.
5. Explain what’s going on in §§79-81.
6. What was “our paradox” (§201)? What is the “misunderstanding here”? What has Wittgenstein accomplished in the line of argument culminating at §202?

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