

24.400

Proseminar in philosophy I

Fall 2003

*The Problems of Philosophy*

0. Set out in valid form Russell's argument that "The real table, if there is one, is not *immediately* known to us at all" (ch. 1). Is it sound?
1. Explain and evaluate Russell's treatment of belief in ch. 12. How did he criticise this view in "The Philosophy of Logical Atomism"?
2. According to Russell, "[a]ll our knowledge, both knowledge of things and knowledge of truths, rests upon acquaintance as its foundation" (ch. 5). What does this mean? Is it true? Are we in fact acquainted with anything?

*The Problems of Philosophy – Additional Questions*

1. According to Russell "The real table, if there is one, is not *immediately* known to us at all" (ch. 1). What sorts of things do we "*immediately* know"? What does all this mean, anyway? Is Russell right?
2. Explain and evaluate Russell's treatment of belief in ch. 12. How did he criticise this view in "The Philosophy of Logical Atomism"?
3. Well, how is *a priori* knowledge possible?