PHIL 387, Assignment Schedule #1 (Revised)

A1: Read Garfield and Kiteley 8-25, and respond to each of the following:

1) According to Mill, when you use the word ‘sun’ do you refer to an external object or to your idea of it? Explain.

2) Do syncategorematic terms name objects? How are they distinguished from categorematic terms? Explain.

3) Explain Mill’s division between connotative and non-connotative individual names. What sort of expressions fall into the different categories? As it turns out, this distinction is controversial and will occupy us for a good part of the course. What evidence does he offer for his claims? Do you think he is right? Explain.

A2: Read McCulloch 1-18, and respond to each of the following:

1) On Frege’s account, what is the difference between ‘London’ and London? between ‘2’ and 2? between ‘...+---’ and ...+---?

2) What is a function? Explain how ...is a man counts as a function.

3) What is the distinction between Sinn and Bedeutung? Hint: note 7 may be helpful.

A3: Read McCulloch 18-20, and respond to each of the following:

1) Consider the “truth-tables” for ‘~’, ‘∧’, ‘∨’ and ‘→’; explain how these can be thought to represent functions. If you have not had Phil 200, look at p. 10 - 11 (and especially note 2) of “Details for a Fregean Symbolism” (http://rocket.csusb.edu/~troy/FregSym.pdf).

2) At the top of p. 14, McCulloch says Frege thought he could convert between ‘All men are mortal’ and ‘everything, if it is a man, is mortal’. Explain why this is so. Hint: Frege sees ‘everything, if it is a man, is mortal’ as, ∀ x(x is a man → x is mortal).

3) What is Frege’s account of generality? Where the only individuals in the universe are a, b and c, on the model of the example on p. 16, say what would have to be the case for the following to be true:

   For any x, for any y, and any z, x is between y and z.

A4: Read I - III of “Details for a Fregean Symbolism” (http://rocket.csusb.edu/~troy/FregSym.pdf) and respond to each of the following (your response to these questions need not be typed):
1) For each of the expressions below, use “graphs” to say whether it is a formula, and then underlines to say whether it is a sentence. In each case, explain your response.

2) Assume $a$, $b$ and $c$ are the only things in the universe; assume further ‘$a$’ names $a$; that $a$ is a dog but $b$ and $c$ are not; that $a$ and $b$ are lucky but $c$ is not; that $a$ barks at $b$ and $c$ but that there are no other barking relations. Where predicate letters are as in the handout, for each of the expressions that is a sentence, use the tree method to say whether it is T or F.

U = \{a, b, c\}
I[a] = a
I[D] = \{a\}
I[L] = \{a, b\}
I[B] = \{(a, b), (a, c)\}

3) Keeping your trees in mind, on the model of the reading, explain in words what each of the expressions that is a sentence “says.”

- a) \(Da\)
- b) \(\neg Da \land Ly \lor Dy\)
- c) \((\neg Da \land Ly) \lor Dy\)
- d) \(\exists y(Da \land Ly) \lor Dy\)
- e) \(\forall wBaw\)
- f) \(\forall x \neg Dx\)
- g) \(\forall x \neg Dx\)
- i) \(\forall x(Dx \rightarrow Lx)\)
- h) \(\forall x \exists y Byx\)
- j) \(\forall x \forall y[(Lx \land Ly) \rightarrow x = y]\)

A5: Read McCulloch 20-29. Respond to each of the following:

1) What is it for a Name to be “object invoking”? In this sense, how do names contrast with quantifiers? What is the commitment claim? How does McCulloch argue for it in section 8?

2) How does the “tiger” case undercut the motivation discussed in (1)? And how does McCulloch “repair” this difficulty?

3) Roy uses Cantor’s “diagonal” argument for an objection against McCulloch’s repair. How does this objection work? How might the commitment claim be modified to avoid this difficulty? Explain?

A6: Read McCulloch 29-40, and respond to each of the following:

1) In section 10, McCulloch offers two separate motivations for the commitment claim (having to do with what the treatment of generality does and makes possible). Roy thinks one of these motivations is problematic, but that the other is more interesting. What are these motivations? why does Roy think the one fails? how do you evaluate the other? why?

2) Distinguish proper names from Proper Names. What are some of the Candidates McCulloch lists for Proper Names?

3) In section 12, McCulloch contrasts two sorts of philosophical project. What are they and how are they different?