

**Philosophy of Mathematics – Essay 8**  
**(The concept of set)**

**Required readings:**

- (!) Boolos, G., ‘The iterative conception of set’, in B&P.
- (!) Parsons, C., ‘What is the iterative conception of set?’, in B&P.
- (!) Potter, M., ‘**Iterative Set Theory**’, *Philosophical Quarterly* 43 (1993), pp. 178–93.
- Lewis, D. ‘**Mathematics is Megethology**’, *Philosophia Mathematica* 3 (1993), pp. 3–23, 1993.
- Wang, H., ‘The concept of set’, in B&P.
- Gödel, K., ‘What is Cantor’s continuum problem?’, in B&P.
- Pollard, S., *A philosophical introduction to set theory*, University of Notre Dame Press (1990).

**Essay Questions:** What is the iterative conception of sets and what are some potential problems with it? What role do axioms play in our understanding of set theory? Can set theory provide a satisfactory foundation for the rest of mathematics?