

Philosophy 376: Introduction to the Philosophy of Language
Fall 2005
University of Arizona
Course Syllabus

Course Time and Location: MWF, 10:00 – 10:50 PM, Social Sciences 411

Instructor: Mike Bruno

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Course Website: https://www.polis.arizona.edu/courseHomesite.do?course=PHIL_376-1&semester=fall05

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Course Description: This is an introductory course in contemporary analytic philosophy of language. The course will be divided into two parts. In the first part, we will discuss perennial issues in the philosophy of language. This will include the following: the nature of language, the syntax/semantics/pragmatics distinction, conversational implicatures, metaphor, definite descriptions, proper names, demonstratives, indexicals, theories of reference, theories of meaning, etc. In the second part of the course, we will take a careful look at a nuanced theory of language and communication, in which the biological foundations of communication are emphasized. The purpose of running the class in this way is to provide students with the necessary background for further study of the philosophy of language, but also to give them a experience of grappling with something more novel and complex.

Academic Honesty: Academic dishonesty of any form will be punished in accordance with University guidelines, available at: <http://catalog.arizona.edu/policies/974/acacode.htm>. Be forewarned that it is my policy that the minimum punishment for any plagiarized work is that students will receive no credit for the plagiarized assignment (with no opportunity to make it up) and will receive an official warning from the University. This is only the minimum punishment. Stricter action may be taken in more egregious cases.

Classroom Conduct: Students will be expected to conduct themselves in a professional manner in the classroom. This includes being respectful to both the instructor and fellow students. Threatening behavior of any kind by any student will be dealt with in accordance with the University policies, available at <http://policy.web.arizona.edu/~policy/threaten.shtml>. Note that conducting yourself in a professional manner also includes refraining from using cell phones, listening to i-pods, reading newspapers, etc.

Grades: Grades will be determined on the basis of the following factors.

- (1) Attendance and Participation (10%): Students are required to attend class having read the material carefully and being willing and prepared to discuss it. However, all holidays or special events observed by organized religions will be honored for those students who show affiliation with that particular religion. Furthermore, absences pre-approved by the UA Dean of Students (or Dean's designee) will be honored.
- (2) Short paper assignments (30%): Students will have to write three two-page papers during the first portion of the class. A number of paper topics will be distributed in class at least one week before the due date, from which students must choose a single topic to write on.
- (3) Exam (25%): There will be a comprehensive multiple-choice exam covering the material from the first part of the class.
- (4) Final paper proposal (5%): Students must turn in a one-page proposal sketching an idea for a topic in the philosophy of language they wish to write on.

- (5) Research paper (30%): Students must turn into my mailbox a 6-10 page final paper on December 12th, 2005 by 12:00 PM.

Please note that the university has policies against disclosing grades in any publicly assessable way. This includes, strangely enough, disclosing grades over email. In order so that students may find out their grades on various assignments, a D2L website (<http://d2l.arizona.edu>) has been established. To access the course on D2L students must have a UA NetID and be officially enrolled in the course.

Students with special needs who are registered with the S.A.L.T. Center or the Disability Resource Center must submit appropriate documentation to me if they plan on requesting special accommodations.

Readings: There is not a lot of reading being assigned for the course, so I do expect students to read everything carefully and thoroughly. Students should expect to read every assignment at least twice. The schedule of readings is subject to change at my discretion, provided sufficient advanced notification, but I do not expect that there will be significant changes.

Required Texts: *Philosophy of Language: A Contemporary Introduction*, 1999, William G. Lycan, Routledge, ISBN: 0415171164

 Varieties of Meaning: The 2002 Jean Nicod Lectures, 2004, Ruth Garrett Millikan, MIT Press, ISBN: 0262134446

Class Schedule:

Mon	8/22	Introduction
Wed	8/24	Stainton, "Three Conceptions of Language" (available on Polis)
Fri	8/26	Lycan 1, "Introduction: meaning and reference"
Mon	8/29	Lycan 1, "Introduction: meaning and reference"
Wed	8/31	Lycan 12, "Speech Acts and Illocutionary Force"
Fri	9/2	Lycan 12, "Speech Acts and Illocutionary Force"
Mon	9/5	NO CLASS (Labor Day)
Wed	9/7	Lycan 13, "Implicative Relations"
Fri	9/9	Lycan 13, "Implicative Relations"
Mon	9/12	Lycan 14, "Metaphor"
Wed	9/14	Frege, "Of Sense and Reference" (available on Polis)
Fri	9/16	Lycan 2, "Definite Descriptions" **First Paper due**
Mon	9/19	Lycan 2, "Definite Descriptions"
Wed	9/21	Lycan 3, "Proper names: the Description Theory"
Fri	9/23	Lycan 3, "Proper names: the Description Theory"
Mon	9/26	Lycan 4, "Proper names: Direct Reference and the Causal-Historical Theory"
Wed	9/28	Lycan 4, "Proper names: Direct Deference and the Causal-Historical Theory"
Fri	9/30	Catch-up and Review
Mon	10/3	Lycan 5, "Traditional Theories of Meaning" **Second Paper due**
Wed	10/5	Lycan 6, "Use' Theories"
Fri	10/7	Lycan 7, "Psychological Theories: Grice's Program"
Mon	10/10	Lycan 7, "Psychological Theories: Grice's Program"
Wed	10/12	Lycan 8, "Verificationism"
Fri	10/14	Lycan 8, "Verificationism"

Mon	10/17	Lycan 9, "Truth-Condition Theories: Davidson's Program"
Wed	10/19	Lycan 9, "Truth-Condition Theories: Davidson's Program"
Fri	10/21	Lycan 10, "Truth-Condition Theories: possible worlds and intensional semantics"
Mon	10/24	Lycan 10, "Truth-Condition Theories: possible worlds and intensional semantics"
Wed	10/26	Lycan 11, "Semantic Pragmatics"
Fri	10/28	Catch-up and Review **Third Paper due**
Mon	10/31	Review for Exam
Wed	11/2	EXAM
Fri	11/4	Millikan 1, "Purposes and Cross-purposes of Humans"
Mon	11/7	Millikan 2, "Purposes and Cross-purposes of Memes"
Wed	11/9	Millikan 3, "Local Natural Signs and Information"
Fri	11/11	NO CLASS (Veterans Day)
Mon	11/14	Millikan 4, "Productivity and Embedding in Natural Signs"
Wed	11/16	Millikan 5, "Teleosemantic Theories"
Fri	11/18	Millikan 6, "Intentionality"
Mon	11/21	Millikan 7, "Intensionality" **Final Paper Proposal due**
Wed	11/23	Catch-up and Review
Fri	11/25	NO CLASS (Thanksgiving Holiday)
Mon	11/28	Millikan 8, "Linguistic Signs Emerge from Natural Signs"
Wed	11/30	Millikan 9, "Direct Perception through Language"
Fri	12/2	Millikan 10, "Tracking the Domains of Conventional Signs"
Mon	12/5	Millikan 11, "Varieties of the Semantics-Pragmatics Distinction"
Wed	12/7	Millikan 12, "Demonstratives, Indexicals, and a Bit More about Descriptions"

****Final Paper due in my mailbox on Monday, December 12th, 2005 at 12:00 PM****