

PHIL 332: Philosophy of Language

Fall 2007

Instructor: Wylie Breckenridge
Classroom: Goldwin Smith 124
Times: MWF 10:10 – 11:00
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Office hours: Monday 11-12
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Overview:

This course offers a broad overview of contemporary issues in the philosophy of language.

Textbooks:

- Lycan, W. (2000), *Philosophy of Language* (Oxford: Routledge).
- Martinich, A. P. (ed.) (2008), *The Philosophy of Language*, 5th edn. (Oxford: Oxford University Press).

Also helpful:

- Morris, M (2007), *An Introduction to the Philosophy of Language* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press).
- Miller, A. (2000), *Philosophy of Language* (Oxford: Routledge).
- Platts, M. (1997), *Ways of Meaning* (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press).
- Stanford Online Encyclopedia articles

Structure:

Each week we will cover one chapter of Lycan's book, which you should read in advance. In class we will discuss various key issues that Lycan covers, and possibly some that he does not. You will also be assigned a reading from the Martinich collection each week, a brief summary of which you will be asked to submit during the Wednesday class.

Assessment:

- 10 brief summaries of the Martinich readings (30%)
- 2 papers:
 - 7-10 pages (double spaced), 25%
 - 10-12 pages (double spaced), 35%
- Attendance and participation (10%)

Detailed plan:

See over...

Monday	Wednesday	Friday
		24 Aug Introduction
27 Definite descriptions	29 Definite descriptions Russell: On Denoting	31 Definite descriptions
3 Sep Names as definite descriptions	5 Names as definite descriptions Kripke: Naming and Necessity	7 Names as definite descriptions
10 Names as directly referring	12 Names as directly referring Evans: Causal Theory of Names	14 Names as directly referring
17 Traditional theories of meaning	19 Traditional theories of meaning Frege: The Thought	21 Traditional theories of meaning
24 Grice on meaning	26 Grice on meaning Grice: Meaning	28 Grice on meaning
1 Oct Verificationism	3 Verificationism Quine: Translation and Meaning	5 Verificationism
8	10 Use theories of meaning First essay due	12 Use theories of meaning
15 Truth conditional theories of meaning	17 Truth conditional theories of meaning Davidson: Truth and Meaning	19 Truth conditional theories of meaning
22 Intensional semantics	24 Intensional semantics Stalnaker: Assertion	26 Intensional semantics
29 Semantic pragmatics	31 Semantic pragmatics Kaplan: DThat	2 Nov Semantic pragmatics
5 Speech acts	7 Speech acts Searle: Structure of Illocutionary Acts	9 Speech acts
12 Implicature	14 Implicature Grice: Logic and Conversation	16 Implicature
19	21	23
26 Metaphor	28 Metaphor Second essay due	30 Metaphor