

PHIL 3710: Philosophy of Language

Fall 2008

Instructor: Wylie Breckenridge
Classroom: Uris Hall 369
Times: TR 11:40 – 12:55
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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, your understanding of which will be tested by either a quiz or a written summary.

Assessment:

- Participation (attendance, discussion), 10%
- Reading comprehension (quizzes, summaries), 30%
- Critical writing:
 - one 7-10 page (double spaced) paper, 25%
 - one 10-12 page (double spaced) paper, 35%

Schedule:

See over...

Schedule

	Tuesday	Thursday
Aug 26, 28		Introduction
Sep 2, 4	Definite descriptions <i>Russell: On Denoting</i>	
Sep 9, 11	Names as definite descriptions <i>Kripke: Naming and Necessity</i>	
Sep 16, 18	Names as directly referring <i>Evans: Causal Theory of Names</i>	
Sep 23, 25	Traditional theories of meaning <i>Frege: The Thought</i>	
Sep 30, Oct 2	Grice on meaning <i>Grice: Meaning</i>	
Oct 7, 9	Verificationism <i>Quine: Translation and Meaning</i>	
Oct 14, 16		Use theories of meaning <i>First paper due</i>
Oct 21, 23	Truth conditional theories of meaning <i>Davidson: Truth and Meaning</i>	
Oct 28, 30	Intensional semantics <i>Stalnaker: Assertion</i>	
Nov 4, 6	Semantic pragmatics <i>Kaplan: DThat</i>	
Nov 11, 13	Speech acts <i>Searle: The Structure of Illocutionary Acts</i>	
Nov 18, 20	Implicature <i>Grice: Logic and Conversation</i>	
Nov 25, 27		
Dec 2, 4	Metaphor <i>Second paper due</i>	