

Philosophy 565: Philosophy of Language
Spring 2010 Syllabus
Prof. Clare Batty

Office: POT 1437

E-mail and URL: clare.batty@uky.edu www.clarebatty.com

Office Hours: Tues. 11:30 – 12:30, Thurs. 2:00 – 4:00, or by appointment

Prerequisites:

None. But you must be prepared to engage with some difficult contemporary material.

Course Description:

This is an upper-level introductory course in the philosophy of language. We will first examine views on the nature of meaning, reference, truth and the relationships between them. After this, we will turn to questions about the relationship between language and the acts we perform through its use. Along the way, we will consider the ways in which meanings play a role in thought and, more generally, in our interactions with the world. Among the philosophers we will study are Gottlob Frege, Bertrand Russell, W. V. O. Quine, Saul Kripke, H. P. Grice and Hilary Putnam.

Course Objectives:

Upon completion of this course, a student should be able to do the following:

- **explain** different contemporary issues and views in the philosophy of language;
- **analyze and critically evaluate** the arguments for these positions; and
- **construct** clear philosophical prose that addresses these issues.

Required Reading:

An Introduction to the Philosophy of Language, Michael Morris, Cambridge, UK: CUP (2007). (IN)

The Philosophy of Language 5th edition, A. P. Martinich (ed.), Oxford: OUP (2006). (AN)

I have ordered both for the bookstores.

I will also make available other required readings that are not in the anthology.

Reading Assignments:

Reading, discussing and writing about the assigned readings are the central activities of this class. There is a reading assignment for each week, typically a chapter of Lycan and a paper or two from the anthology. ***Your careful preparation of the readings is crucial.*** The readings in both anthologies are often very difficult: expect to read everything at least twice. They require close study, and you should not put them off until the last minute. If you have trouble understanding what an author says, or any other question concerning the course, please do not hesitate to ask.

Requirements and Grading:

IMPORTANT: Failure to meet **ANY** of the requirements of the course will result in **FAILURE OF THE COURSE.**

Undergraduates:

6 short(ish) written assignments: 60% (10% each)

Take-home final exam: 25%

Class participation: 15% (Evaluation will be based on **attendance**, preparation and contribution to class discussion.)

MORE THAN 4 UNDOCUMENTED ABSENCES WILL RESULT IN NO CREDIT FOR PARTICIPATION.

Graduate students:

Paper 1 (8-10 pages): 35%

Final paper (15-20 pages): 50%

Participation: 15% (attendance, class participation and the occasional pop-quiz)

MORE THAN 4 UNDOCUMENTED ABSENCES WILL RESULT IN NO CREDIT FOR PARTICIPATION.

The letter grading system of the University will be followed, including the policy governing the "I" grade. (For keeping track of students' performance, and as an aid to figuring a final grade, I will use a plus-minus version of the standard university letter grading. Thus, on the university's 4-point mathematical scale: A = 4; A- = 3.7; B+ = 3.3; B = 3; B- = 2.7; C+ = 2.3; C = 2; C- = 1.7; D+ = 1.3; D = 1; D- = 0.7; E = 0.)

Policy on Lateness (of Two Varieties):

Class: It is disruptive to class when students come in late. If you are more than 10 minutes late, you will be marked as 'absent'—although you may stay as long as you take a seat close to the door.

Assignments: Assignments handed in late will be penalized by the equivalent of one grade point per calendar day, unless you can document a medical or other valid reason for why your assignment is late. If you turn an assignment in late, you must give it to me in person or e-mail it to me. Do not leave it in my mailbox.

Please see course reading list for all due dates.

Plagiarism:

Plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated in this course. Plagiarism means taking the words and thoughts of others (their ideas, concepts, images, sentences, and so forth) and using them as if they were your own, without crediting the author or citing the source. Other forms of academic dishonesty include: cheating on exams, double submission of papers, aiding dishonesty, and falsification of records. If in doubt about what counts as plagiarism, or about how to properly reference a source, consult me. At this and most other universities, plagiarism is taken very seriously and will be punished in accordance with the UK Policy on Disposition of Academic Offenses. If you are tempted to plagiarize because you are in crisis, it is always better to speak to your professor, your advisor, the counseling center, or another trusted authority on campus who can help you handle the crisis.

For more information on plagiarism, and how to avoid it, see:

<http://www.uky.edu/Ombud/Plagiarism.pdf>

http://wps.prenhall.com/hss_understand_plagiarism_1/0,6622,427064-,00.html

For a statement on UK's Policy on Disposition of Academic Offenses, see:

http://www.chem.uky.edu/research/grossman/acadoffenses/new_policy.pdf

Getting Help:

I am here to help you. Feel free to email me with any questions about the material or the assignments, or come and visit me during office hours. You may also make an appointment with me outside of office hours.

Web Resources:

See Jim Pryor's Guidelines on reading and writing philosophy papers:

<http://www.jimpryor.net/teaching/guidelines/reading.html>

<http://www.jimpryor.net/teaching/guidelines/writing.html>.

Useful glossaries are Jim Pryor's Philosophical Terms and Methods:

<http://www.jimpryor.net/teaching/vocab/index.html>.

Classroom and Learning Accommodations:

Any student with a disability who is taking this course and needs classroom or exam accommodations should contact the Disability Resource Center, 257-2754, room 2 Alumni Gym, jkarnes@uky.edu.

Reading Schedule

Phil 565: Philosophy of Language

Spring 2010
Professor Clare Batty

Week 1

01/14/10	Introduction		
----------	--------------	--	--

Week 2

01/19/10	Locke	Locke, "Of Words" [AP 621-625] Chapter 1, "Locke on the Nature of Language" [IN 5-20]	
01/21/10	Frege	Frege, Preface to <i>Foundations of Arithmetic</i> [handout] Frege, "On Sense and Nominatum" [AP 217-229] Chapter 2, "Frege on Sense and Reference" [IN 21-48]	

Week 3

01/26/10	Frege	Frege, cont'd	Assignment 1 handed out
01/28/10	Russell	Russell, "On Denoting" [AP 230-238] Russell, "Descriptions" [AP 239-245] Chapter 3, "Russell on Definite Descriptions" [IN 49-73]	

Week 4

02/02/10	Strawson	Russell cont'd Strawson, "On Referring" [AP 246-260]	Assignment 1 due
02/04/10	Donnellan	Strawson cont'd Donnellan, "Reference and Definite Descriptions" [AP 265-277]	

Week 5

02/09/10	Donnellan	Donnellan, cont'd	Assignment 2 handed out
02/11/10	Proper Names	Mill, "Of Names" [AP 284-289] Searle, "Proper Names" [handout]	

Week 6

02/16/10	Proper Names	Kripke, "Naming and Necessity" [AP 290-305] Chapter 4, "Kripke on Proper Names" [IN 74-93]	Assignment 2 due
02/18/10	Proper Names	Kripke, cont'd Evans, "The Causal Theory of Names" [AP 312-325]	

Week 7

02/23/10	Proper Names	Evans, cont'd	Assignment 3 handed out
02/25/10	Natural Kind Terms	Kripke, Lecture III of <i>Naming and Necessity</i> [handout] Chapter 5, "Natural-Kind Terms" [IN 94-112]	

Week 8

03/02/10	Natural Kind Terms	Kripke, cont'd Putnam, "Meaning and Reference" [AP 306-313]	Assignment 3 due
03/04/10	Natural Kind Terms	Putnam, cont'd	

Week 9

03/09/10	Modality	Quine, "Three Grades of Modal Involvement" [handout] Chapter 6, Quine on De Re and De Dicto Modality" [IN 113-133]	Assignment 4 handed out
03/11/10	Modality	Quine, cont'd	

Week 10

03/16/10		SPRING BREAK!	
03/18/10		SPRING BREAK!	

Week 11

03/23/10	Propositional Attitudes	Quine, "Quantifiers and Propositional Attitudes" [AP 383-388] Chapter 7, "Reference and Propositional Attitudes" [IN 134-151]	Assignment 4 due
03/25/10	Propositional Attitudes	Quine, cont'd Perry, "The Problem of the Essential Indexical" [handout]	

Week 12

03/30/10	Propositional Attitudes	Perry, cont'd	
04/01/10		BATTY AWAY	

Week 13

04/06/10	Propositional Attitudes	Kripke, "A Puzzle About Belief" [AP 433-459] Chapter 8, "The Semantics of Propositional Attitudes" [IN 152-172]	Assignment 5 handed out
04/08/10	Propositional Attitudes	Kripke, cont'd	

Week 14

04/13/10	Indeterminacy	Quine, "Translation and Meaning" [AP 546-576] Chapter 11, "Quine on the Indeterminacy of Translation" [IN 214-230] <i>Recommended:</i> Quine, "Two Dogmas of Empiricism" [AP 63-76]	<i>Assignment 5 due</i>
04/15/10	Indeterminacy	Quine, cont'd	

Week 15

04/20/10	Speech Acts	"Austin, "Performative Utterances" [AP 136-145] Chapter 12, "Austin on Speech Acts" [IN 231-247]	<i>Assignment 6 handed out</i>
04/22/10	Speech Acts	Austin, cont'd	

Week 16

04/27/10	Grice on Meaning	Grice, "Meaning" [handout] Chapter 13, "Grice on Meaning" [IN 248-270]	<i>Assignment 6 due</i> <i>Take home handed out</i>
04/29/10	Grice on Meaning	Grice, cont'd	