

**PHIL2504, COMM2504, LING2504  
LANGUAGE AND COMMUNICATION**

**DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY  
CARLETON UNIVERSITY  
FALL 2010**

**Class:** Mondays 6:05 - 8:55

**Room:** 3380 Mackenzie

**Professor:** Robert Thomson

**Office:** 2216 Dunton Tower

**Email:** [rthomson@connect.carleton.ca](mailto:rthomson@connect.carleton.ca) (best way to reach me)

**Office Hours:** Tuesday 10:00 - 12:00 and by appointment

**Course Website:** Login to WebCT ([webct.carleton.ca](http://webct.carleton.ca))

**TA:** TBD

**Email:** TBD

**Required Texts:**

Lycan, W. *The Philosophy of Language: A Contemporary Introduction 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition*. New York: New York: Routledge, 2008.

Additional readings will be available on WebCT system.

Books are available through Haven Books: 43 Seneca St. (Just off Sunnyside Ave. between Bronson Ave. and Bank St.) [www.havenbooks.ca](http://www.havenbooks.ca)

**General Overview:**

This course has been restructured from previous years with a broader focus on the role of nonverbal interactions on communication. Psychological, philosophical, and linguistic evidence will be used to generate novel examples of traditional philosophical arguments in the philosophy of language. Topics will include the role of body language in detecting deception, animal communication, the role of implicature, and how phrases get their meaning. Differing from previous years, there will be less analysis of primary source readings. Instead, the focus will be on understanding the major arguments and objections to the major theories in the philosophy of language.

Students are expected to attend class, complete all required readings, and complete all evaluation components to receive a passing grade. This course is geared to students with little or no background in philosophy or linguistics.

**Evaluation:**

There are a number of components that will be used to determine your final grade in this course: a WebCT Blog, a journal article synopsis, a group project, and a take-home final examination.

**Weighting of Final Grade:**

Take-Home Final	30%
Group Project	35%
Journal Article Synopsis	20%
WebCT Blog	<u>15%</u>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>100%</b>

**a) Take Home Examination (30%):**

The take-home exam will consist of short- and long-answer questions. Answers should reflect an understanding of the topics discussed in class and attempt to integrate theories. While students are encouraged to discuss content, each student must write their own unique answers (i.e., rules of plagiarism below still apply). The exam will be handed out on December 6<sup>th</sup> and will be due on December 22<sup>nd</sup> by noon in the Philosophy Essay drop-box.

**b) Group Project (35%):**

The group project will consist of groups of four (4) students generating a short 5 minute video on a topic (TBD) with an accompanying group-generated 6-8 page research paper. Group project ideas will be due October 4<sup>th</sup>, videos will be due November 8<sup>th</sup>, and papers due November 15<sup>th</sup>. More information will be available on WebCT.

**c) Journal Article Synopsis (20%):**

You will be expected to prepare a journal article synopsis with a maximum of 1000 words (2 page single-spaced; 12pt font; 1" margins). Selections will be made available on the WebCT system. The synopsis will consist of a concise critical summary of the main points of a chosen article. A guide will be available on WebCT with a grading rubric. We will go over the requirements for these synopses in-class. The goal of these synopses is to help you organize your thoughts and critically evaluate arguments in a clear and concise manner. The synopsis will be due October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

**d) WebCT Blog (15%):**

Each student has a public weblog. This is a forum for you to post about the topics discussed in class and expand upon any thoughts/ideas that interested you. It is expected that students post at least once every second week (i.e., minimum 6 posts). You can also comment on posts from other blogs. There is no minimum length for each entry; your grade will be determined by the quality of your thought. More information will be available on WebCT.

## SCHEDULES AND DATES

The following course schedule provides only a rough description of content and readings, and may be subject to change based on class interest of specific topics.

### INTRODUCTION

#### Week 0

Monday, September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2010 – *Course Introduction / Syllabus*

#### Week 1

Monday, September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2010 – *Facial Action Coding System* WebCT Reading TBD

#### Week 2

Monday, September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2010 – *The Uniqueness of Human Language* WebCT Reading TBD

### REFERRING

#### Week 3

Monday, October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2010 – *Definite Descriptions* Lycan, pp. 1-30  
*Project Ideas Due*

#### Week 4

Monday, October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2010 – *Thanksgiving*

#### Week 5

Monday, October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2010 – *Proper Names* Lycan, pp. 31-62  
*Synopsis Due*

### MEANINGS: IDEAS and USES

#### Week 6

Monday, October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2010 – *Idea and Use Theories of Meaning* Lycan, pp. 63-97

#### Week 7

Monday, November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010 – *Verification and Truth-Conditional Meaning* Lycan, pp. 98-134

### COMMUNICATION

#### Week 8

Monday, November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2010 – *Pragmatics* Lycan, pp. 135-155  
*Group Video Due*

#### Week 9

Monday, November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010 – *Conversational Implicatures* Lycan, pp. 156-172  
*Group Paper Due*

#### Week 10

Monday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2010 – *Metaphor* Lycan, pp. 173-190

#### Week 11

Monday, November 29<sup>th</sup>, 2010 – *Overflow Class* TBD

#### Week 12

Monday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2010 – *Video Presentation and Exam Review*  
*Take-Home Exam Handed Out*  
*WebCT Blogs Close*

## **Department of Philosophy and Carleton** **University Policies**

### **Assignments:**

Unless specifically told otherwise by their instructors, students:

- must not use a plastic or cardboard cover or paper clips
- must staple the paper
- must include the following in the lower right corner of the cover sheet:
  - student name
  - student number
  - course number and section
  - instructor's name
- The Philosophy Department does not accept assignments by FAX. You may send them by courier, if necessary.
- No assignments will be accepted after the last day for handing in term work.
- Assignments handed in through the essay box (just inside the glass doors, Paterson Hall, Floor 3A) must be dropped into the box by 4:15 on a regular business day in order to be date-stamped with that day's date. Assignments handed in after 4:15 or on a non-business day will be stamped as having been handed in on the next business day.
- Students are required to keep copies of their assignments. If your paper is lost at any point, you will be considered not to have submitted it if you cannot produce a copy immediately on request.

### **Deferrals for Term Work:**

If you miss a final examination and/or fail to submit a final assignment by the due date because of circumstances beyond your control, you may apply for a deferral of examination/assignment. For deferred examinations, you must apply within 5 working days after the scheduled date of your exam. To apply for deferral of a final assignment, you must apply within 5 working days of the last scheduled day of classes. Visit the Registrar's Office for more information.

### **Plagiarism:**

It is the responsibility of each student to understand the meaning of 'plagiarism' as defined in the Undergraduate or Graduate Calendars, and to avoid both committing plagiarism and aiding or abetting plagiarism by other students. (Undergraduate Calendar Academic Regulations, section 14.3, page 56 or <http://www.carleton.ca/cu0809uc/regulations/acadregsuniv14.html#14.3>)

### **Academic Accommodation:**

*For Students with Disabilities:* Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course must register with the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) for a formal evaluation of disability-related needs. Documented disabilities include but are not limited to mobility/physical impairments, specific Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/psychological disabilities, sensory disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), and chronic medical conditions. Registered PMC students are required to contact the PMC every term to have a Letter of Accommodation sent to the Instructor by their Coordinator. In addition, students are expected to confirm their need for accommodation with the Instructor no later than two weeks before the first assignment is due or the first in-class test/midterm. If you require accommodations only for formally scheduled exam(s) in this course, you must request accommodations by the last official day to withdraw from classes in each term.

*For Religious Observance:* Students requesting academic accommodation on the basis of religious observance should make a formal, written request to their instructors for alternate dates and/or means of satisfying academic requirements. Such requests should be made during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist, but no later than two weeks before the compulsory academic event. Accommodation is to be worked out directly and on an individual basis between the student and the instructor(s) involved. Instructors will make accommodations in a way that avoids academic disadvantage to the student.

Students or instructors who have questions or want to confirm accommodation eligibility of a religious event or practice may refer to the Equity Services website [www.carleton.ca/equity/holy\\_days/](http://www.carleton.ca/equity/holy_days/) for a list of holy days and Carleton's Academic Accommodation policies.

*For Pregnancy:* Pregnant students requiring academic accommodations are encouraged to contact an Equity Advisor in Equity Services to complete a *letter of accommodation*. The student must then make an appointment to discuss her needs with the instructor at least two weeks prior to the first academic event in which it is anticipated the accommodation will be required.

### **Important Dates:**

Sept. 7	Classes start (after Orientation events).
Sept. 22	Last day for registration and course changes in Fall term and two-term courses.
Sept. 30	Last day for entire fee adjustment when withdrawing from fall term or two-term courses.
Oct. 8	University Day – no classes.
Oct. 11	Thanksgiving Day – university closed.
Nov. 15	Last day to withdraw from Fall term courses (academic purposes only).
Nov. 22	Last day for tests or examinations in courses below 4000 level before the Final Examination period.
Dec. 6	Last day of classes, Fall term. Last day for handing in term assignments, subject to any earlier course deadline.
Dec. 9-22	Final examinations for Fall courses, mid-terms for Fall/Winter courses.
Dec. 22	Take Home examinations for Fall courses due

### **Addresses:**

Department of Philosophy:	3A46 Paterson Hall <a href="http://www.carleton.ca/philosophy">www.carleton.ca/philosophy</a> 520-2110
Registrar's Office:	300 Tory <a href="http://www.carleton.ca/registrar">www.carleton.ca/registrar</a> 520-3500
Student Academic Success Centre:	302 Tory <a href="http://www.carleton.ca/sasc">www.carleton.ca/sasc</a> 520-7850
Paul Menton Centre:	500 University Centre <a href="http://www.carleton.ca/pmc">www.carleton.ca/pmc</a> 520-6608
Writing Tutorial Service:	4 <sup>th</sup> Floor, Library <a href="http://www.carleton.ca/mts">www.carleton.ca/mts</a> 520-6632
MacOdrum Library	<a href="http://www.library.carleton.ca">www.library.carleton.ca</a> 520-2735