

PHIL/LING 3504 A

Pragmatics

Eros Corazza
Carleton University
Department of Philosophy

Term: Winter 2014
Meetings: Wednesdays 2:35pm – 5:25pm (12 meetings)
Venue: ME 4332
Instructor: Eros Corazza
Office: Paterson Hall 3A41
Office h.: by appointment
Phone: 520-2600 Ext: 2326
Email: eros_corazza@yahoo.com; eros_corazza@carleton.ca

Webpage: <http://eroscorazza.com>

Short Essay Deadline (1,500 words): TBA; worth 30% of final grade

Long Essay Deadline (3,000 words): Last day of class; worth 50% of final grade
20% of final grade depends on class attendance and participation

Course Description

One of the aims of pragmatics is to explain the distinction between sentence meaning and speaker's meaning. In this respect the study of how context influences and guides the interpretation of utterances is extremely important. Of extreme importance is also the cognitive capacity we have to grasp others intended messages.

Consider:

- (1) Jon had sex with Mary *and* Jon got infected
- (2) Jon got infected *and* Jon had sex with Mary

(1) and (2) are of the form "p & q". In logic "p & q" is thought to be equivalent with "q & p". Thus if (1) is true (2) must be true as well. Yet, (1) and (2) convey different information, i.e. that there is a temporal relation between Jon having sex with Mary and Jon being infected: while (1) suggests that Jon got infected by Mary, (2) suggests that Jon may have transmitted his disease to Mary. The moral and legal consequences could thus be dramatically different. It is the business of pragmatics to explain how (1) and (2) can differ in the meaning they convey. Furthermore, (1) and (2) do not explicitly say that Jon got a sexually transmitted disease. This information is merely implicitly conveyed. It

is the business of pragmatics to explain how some relevant information can be implicitly transmitted.

Topics to be discussed include: speaker meaning, literal/non-literal meaning, pragmatic competence, conversational cooperation and interpretation, pragmatic and conventional implicatures, relevance, presuppositions, the pragmatics/semantics distinction, implicit vs. explicit, etc.

Aims and Objectives

The module aims to provide a general introduction to the development of some key notions pertaining to the philosophy of language. To do so we shall focus on some influential works of Grice, Sperber & Wilson, and others and the way they have been perceived by the philosophical and linguistic community.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the module you should be able to:

- **Understand notions** such as: speaker meaning, literal/non-literal meaning, pragmatic competence, conversational cooperation and interpretation, pragmatic and conventional implicatures, relevance, presuppositions, the pragmatics/semantics distinction, implicit vs. explicit, etc. (see *Module Content* and *Topics to be Discussed*, for detailed information on the notions/topics we'll discuss).
- **Communication skills:** through essays writing and the feedback you will get on them you will further develop the capacity to present problems and propose solutions to them in a clear, precise and concise way. Through discussions you will also have the opportunity to develop the capacity to speak briefly and clearly on a given subject/problem, to ask questions and requests for clarification, and to contribute constructively to discussion.
- You will have lot of opportunities to **interact** with other students in discussing some of the issues we will be dealing with.

Texts Recommended

The books should be available at Haven Books (Sunnyside).

Textbook (background reading):

- Huang Y. 2006. *Pragmatics*. Oxford UP

Other important texts:

- Carston R. 2002. *Thoughts and Utterances*. Blackwell
- Davis S. (ed.) 1991. *Pragmatics: A Reader*. Oxford UP
- Grice P. 1989. *Studies in the Way of Words*. Harvard UP
- Horn L. & Ward G. (eds.) 2004. *The Handbook of Pragmatics*. Blackwell
- Levinson S. 2000. *Presumptive Meaning*. MIT
- Sperber D. & Wilson D. 1986. *Relevance*. Blackwell

Interesting and important articles on pragmatics and related topics can be found on the following people's web-pages:

- Kent Bach:
<http://userwww.sfsu.edu/~kbach>
- Robin Carston:
<http://www.phon.ucl.ac.uk/home/robyn/home.htm>
- Deidre Wilson:
<http://www.phon.ucl.ac.uk/home/deirdre/index3.html>

Requirements

It is mandatory to have a Carleton student "connect" account and to register on WebCT.

Assignments and Grades

One short essay and a final take home exam

- Short Essay (1500 words maximum) Weight: 30%
- Final Essay (2500 words maximum) Weight: 60%
- **10% of the final grade will depend on class attendance, reading and participation**

Due Assignment

- Short Essay: TBA
- Long Essay: Last day of class

Essay Topic

- Yours choice, but should communicate (e.g.: email) your title/topic. The title/topic must be approved.
- The essays must be on different topics.

Department of Philosophy and Carleton University Policies (2013-14)

Assignments:

Unless specifically told otherwise by their instructors, students:

- must not use a plastic or cardboard cover or paper clips
- must staple the paper (there is a stapler on the essay box)
- 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 – see dates in next column.
- 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, or <http://www4.carleton.ca/calendars//ugrad/current/regulations/acadregsuniv14.html#14.3>)

Academic Accommodation:

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows:

Pregnancy obligation: write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details visit the Equity Services website: <http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/>

Religious obligation: write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details visit the Equity Services website: <http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/>

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: The **Paul Menton Centre** for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me your **Letter of Accommodation** at the beginning of the term, and no

later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (*if applicable*). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (*if applicable*) at <http://www2.carleton.ca/pmc/new-and-current-students/dates-and-deadlines/>

You can visit the Equity Services website to view the policies and to obtain more detailed information on academic accommodation at <http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/>

Important Dates:

Sept. 5	Classes start (after Orientation events).
Sept. 18	Last day for registration and course changes in Fall and Fall/Winter courses.
Sept. 30	Last day for entire fee adjustment when withdrawing from Fall term or two-term courses.
Oct. 14	Thanksgiving Day – university closed.
Oct. 28 –	
Nov. 1	Fall Break – no classes.
Nov. 25	Last day for tests or examinations in courses below 4000-level before the Final Examination period.
Dec. 9	Last day of classes, Fall term. Last day for handing in term work and the last day that can be specified by a course instructor as a due date for Fall term courses.
Dec. 9	Last day to withdraw from Fall term courses (academic purposes only).
Dec. 10	No classes or examinations take place. Review classes may be held, but no new material may be introduced.
Dec. 11-22	Final examinations for Fall courses, mid-terms for Fall/Winter courses.
Dec. 22	Take-home exams are due.
Jan. 6	Winter term classes begin.
Jan. 17	Last day for registration and course changes in Winter term classes.
Jan. 31	Last day for entire fee adjustment when withdrawing from winter courses or winter portion of two-term courses.
Feb. 17-21	Winter Break, classes suspended.
Mar. 25	Last day for tests or examinations in courses below 4000-level before the Final Examination period.
Apr. 8	Last day of Fall/Winter and Winter term classes. Last day for handing in term work and the last day that can be specified by a course instructor as a due date for term work for Fall/Winter and Winter term courses.
Apr. 8	Last day to withdraw from Fall/Winter and Winter term courses (academic purposes only).
Apr. 9-10	No classes or examinations take place. Review classes may be held, but no new material may be introduced.
Apr. 11-26	Final Examinations. Exams will not be held Apr. 18-20.
Apr. 18	Good Friday – university closed.
Apr. 26	Take-home exams are due.

Addresses:

Department of Philosophy:	3A35 Paterson Hall www.carleton.ca/philosophy 520-2110
Registrar's Office:	300 Tory www.carleton.ca/registrar 520-3500
Student Academic Success Centre:	302 Tory www.carleton.ca/sasc 520-7850
Writing Tutorial Service:	4 th Floor, Library http://www1.carleton.ca/sasc/writing-tutorial-service/ 520-6632
MacOdrum Library	http://www.library.carleton.ca/ 520-2735