

PHIL3530
PHILOSOPHY OF LANGUAGE
Fall 2013
PROFESSOR GERALDINE FINN
PA3A61 EXT 1783

*Philosophy ought really to be written only as a form of poetry.**

Reading in no way obliges you to understand. You have to read first.

Let us listen intuitively to language

DESCRIPTION

This course will explore the relationship between language and thought, signification and sense, through a close reading of selected texts in the philosophy of language which problematize the traditional language and approaches to language of philosophy itself. The course will be run as a seminar with individual students assuming responsibility for the introduction of the assigned readings each week. Assessment will be based on seminar presentation, participation and a final take-home exam.

REQUIRED TEXTS

The Blue and Brown Books by Ludwig Wittgenstein (ordered from **AllBooks**, 327 Rideau St. next to the Bytowne Cinema. Open 10.00 am – 9.00 pm Mon-Sat, Noon – 9.00 pm Sun. Tel 613 789 9544). This is the only text you are **required to buy**.

Other required readings identified by **(RSV)** in the outline have been placed on reserve in the library. You are **expected to make photo-copies** of the designated pages of these texts (5 texts and 6 designated readings) and bring them to class for discussion at the appropriate times:

‘Schizophonetics’ in Daniel Heller-Roazen, *Echolalias. On the Forgetting of Language* (Zone Books), Chapter 17, pp. 179 – 190 (**RSV** available as an electronic resource).

‘Language and Otherness’ in Bruce Fink, *The Lacanian Subject. Between Language and Jouissance* (Princeton University Press) Chapter 1, pp. 3 – 13 (**RSV**).

‘Death of the Author’ in Roland Barthes, *Image, Music, Text* (Fontana Press) pp. 142 – 148 (**RSV**).

‘From Work to Text’ in Roland Barthes, *Ibid.*, pp. 155 – 164 (**RSV**).

‘Indirect Language and the Voices of Silence’ in Maurice Merleau-Ponty, *Signs* (Northwestern University Press) pp. 39 – 47, 76 – 83 (**RSV**).

‘The Body as Expression, and Speech’ in Maurice Merleau-Ponty, *The Phenomenology of Perception* (Routledge), Part 1, Chapter 1, pp. 202 – 232 (**RSV**).

* These quotations are from Wittgenstein (*Culture and Value*, 24), Lacan (cited in Fink, 149), and Barthes (*The Neutral*, 17) respectively.

OFFICE HOURS: Friday 12:00 – 1:00 pm and/or by appointment

ATTENDANCE

Attendance will be recorded and one percentage point deducted from your final grade for each absence (up to a maximum of 10%).

EVALUATION

Seminar	40%
Final Exam	60%

SEMINARS

All students will be responsible for at least one seminar presentation. Seminar instructions are attached to this outline. The grade for the seminar will be based on the quality of your individual presentation(s) as well as your overall seminar participation throughout the course. Participation includes attentive listening as well as oral contributions informed by careful consideration of the assigned readings and/or other materials relevant to the topic of the course.

TAKE-HOME EXAM

This will be distributed in the last class. **Due on or before Friday 22 December 2013.**

COURSE OUTLINE

- week 1 Introduction and assignment of seminar responsibilities.
- week 2 **Schizophonetics – Language and Otherness**
Daniel Heller-Roazen, 'Schizophonetics' in *Echolalias. On the Forgetting of Language*, Chapter 17, pp. 179 – 190 (RSV).

Bruce Fink, 'Language and Otherness' in *The Lacanian Subject. Between Language and Jouissance*, Chapter 1, pp. 3 – 13 (RSV).
- week 3 **Death of the Author – From Work to Text**
Roland Barthes, 'Death of the Author' plus 'From Work to Text' both in *Image, Music, Text*, pp.142 – 148, 155 – 164 (RSV).
- week 4 **Language is Much More Like a Sort of Being Than a Means**
Maurice Merleau-Ponty, 'Indirect Language and the Voices of Silence' in *Signs*, Chapter 1, pp. 39 – 47, 76 – 83 (RSV).
- week 5 **The Body as Expression, and Speech**
Maurice Merleau-Ponty, 'The Body as Expression, and Speech' in *The Phenomenology of Perception*, Part 1, Chapter 1, pp. 202 – 209 (RSV).
- week 6 **The Body is a Power of Natural Expression**
Merleau-Ponty, 'The Body', *Op. cit.*, pp. 209 – 216 (RSV).
- week 7 **So Many Ways of Singing the World**
Merleau-Ponty, 'The Body', *Op. cit.*, pp. 216 – 224 (RSV).

- week 8 **It is the Body Which Points Out, and Which Speaks**
Merleau-Ponty, 'The Body', *Op. cit.*, pp. 224 – 232 (RSV).
- week 9 **NO CLASS – FALL BREAK**
- week 10 **What is the Meaning of a Word?**
Ludwig Wittgenstein, *The Blue Book*, pp. 1 – 12.
- week 11 **Thinking is Essentially Operating with Signs**
Wittgenstein, *Ibid.*, pp. 12 – 25.
- week 12 **Ordinary Language is All Right**
Wittgenstein, *Ibid.*, pp. 25 – 40.
- week 13 **To Speak without Thinking**
Wittgenstein, *Ibid.*, pp. 40 – 55.
- week 14 **The Use of the Word in Practice is its Meaning**
Wittgenstein, *Ibid.*, pp. 55 – 74.

Distribution of Take-Home Exam

INSTRUCTIONS FOR SEMINAR PRESENTATIONS

1. Identify **3 aspects** of the reading which were the most **interesting** and helpful *to you* and your interests in the context of this course and be prepared to explain and clarify your selection. (Compose one carefully worded paragraph for each point of interest explaining your choice for the 2-page report described in # 5 below.)
2. **Memorize** your favourite passage in the reading (**4 – 10 lines**) and be prepared to recite it in class and explain why you like it. (This can be one of the points you chose to discuss in # 1 or # 3 or something different).
3. Identify **2 or 3 aspects** of the reading with which you had the most **difficulty**, either of comprehension or agreement, and be prepared to explain why this is so. (Compose one carefully worded paragraph for each point of difficulty clarifying the problems you have with the text for the 2-page report described in # 5 below.)
4. **Summarise** the principal argument of the assigned reading in 3 or 4 sentences.
5. Prepare a 2-page typed, single-space **report** of all of the above to be handed to the instructor at the end of the class.

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/acadre/suniv14.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. 11	University Day – no undergraduate classes.
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