

PHIL/LING/COMM 2504

Winter 2016, Tuesdays and Thursdays 2:35-3:55

Instructor: Dr. Katherine Wayne

Office hours: Mondays 1:00-2:30, or by appointment

Office: 3A54 Paterson Hall (3rd floor, Department of Philosophy)

E-mail: katherine.wayne@cunet.carleton.ca

Teaching Assistant: Aaron Nowaczhek

CONDITIONS FOR ENROLMENT

Precludes additional credit for COMM 2800, LALS 2504, LALS 2800 and PHIL 2800.

Prerequisite(s): second-year standing.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

In this class we will examine some of the central topics in the philosophical study of language and communication, with particular attention to how these topics were developed and are debated within the analytic tradition. The topics include the nature and function of language, connections between language, thought, and reality, the relationship between truth and meaning, and the social and pragmatic features of language and communication. We will also explore how theoretical issues in the study of language and communication relate to concrete issues of how we understand and get along with one another in the world.

CLASS TEXTS

Required (available for purchase at campus bookstore): Lycan, William G. *Philosophy of Language: A Contemporary Introduction (Routledge Contemporary Introductions to Philosophy)*. 2nd ed. Routledge, 2008. ISBN: 9780415957526.

Recommended: Martinich, Aloysius P., and David Sosa, eds. *The Philosophy of Language*. 6th ed. Oxford University Press, 2012.

Readings that are not in the Lycan book will be made available through cuLearn.

COURSE POLICIES

Students are expected to arrive to class having completed the assigned readings, and to bring the assigned reading(s) to class. Outside of extenuating circumstances, you are expected to arrive to class on time and stay until the end of class. And you are expected to avoid engaging in any other activities that may be distracting to yourself or those around you, including laptop use (outside of note-taking), talking during lecture, and cell phone use.

You are welcome to discuss any questions or concerns regarding the assignments or other course-related matters with the instructor or teaching assistant during office hours, by appointment, or by e-mail. E-

mail inquiries should be reserved for brief questions, and will typically receive a response within twenty four hours.

If you have any concerns about your ability to fulfill course requirements, but are unsure of how to proceed, please speak with me as soon as possible, and also be careful to inform yourself on relevant departmental and university policies and accommodations services. There is a complete list of these on the last pages of this syllabus, which all students should become familiar with.

Missed in-class exercises cannot be made up. The lowest exercise grade you receive will not count toward your final grade. Exceptional cases that are not already covered by PMC accommodations will be dealt with on an individual basis.

Make-up exams will be allowed in cases of documented illness/medical, family, or other emergencies.

Violations of academic integrity will not be tolerated. If you are unclear on Carleton's academic integrity policy, please consult the information and links to further resources on the last page of the syllabus.

EVALUATION

The grading scheme for this class is made up of three components, which are briefly described below. Further instructions for each of these will be provided in class and on cuLearn.

1) In-class group exercises (25%)

Six classes will be primarily devoted to in-class small group exercises that will involve analysis and critique of the assigned reading. At the end of these classes, groups will submit a copy of the assignment for grading; each member of the group will receive the same grade. Attendance and participation in these exercises is required, but only the best five of the assignments will be included in your final grade. This makes each exercise worth 5% of your final grade.

2) Midterm (30%)

Students will write one in-class midterm, which will include short and long answer questions.

3) Final paper proposal/workshop participation (5%) and final paper (40%)

Final topics and instructions regarding the final paper and proposal will be available on Tuesday March 8th.

Students will complete and submit a term paper of approximately 2000 words, on a topic from the list provided, or one of your own invention (topics outside the list must be approved by the instructor). The paper is due Friday April 8th.

A proposal for your final paper is due on Tuesday March 22nd. A final paper workshop will take place on Thursday March 31st.

READINGS

Classes that will include graded in-class assignments are bolded.

PART I:

Introduction to the big questions: truth, meaning, and the nature of language and communication

Thursday January 7	Introduction: no assigned readings
Tuesday January 12	Gottlob Frege (1918), “The Thought: A Logical Inquiry”
Thursday January 14	Noam Chomsky (1988), “Language and the Problems of Knowledge”
Tuesday January 19	Donald Davidson (1985), “A Nice Derangement of Epitaphs”

PART II:

Referential theories of meaning and their critics

Thursday January 21	TBA
Tuesday January 26	Lycan chapter 1 “Introduction: Meaning and Reference” and chapter 2 “Definite Descriptions”
Thursday January 28	Bertrand Russell, (1919), “Descriptions”
Tuesday February 2	Saul Kripke (1972), Selection from <i>Naming and Necessity</i>
Thursday February 4	Lycan chapter 4 “Proper Names: Direct Reference and the Causal-Historical Theory”

PART III

From logical positivism to meaning as “use” or meaning as truth

Tuesday February 9	Lycan chapter 8, “Verificationism”
Thursday February 11	Lycan chapter 6 “‘Use’ Theories”

**Note: No class February 16th or 18th (Reading Break)*

Tuesday February 23	Lycan chapter 7, “Psychological Theories: Grice’s Program”
Thursday February 25	Lycan chapter 9 “Truth-Condition Theories: Davidson’s Program”

Tuesday March 1 Michael Dummett (1975), “What is a Theory of Meaning”?

Thursday March 3 In-class midterm, no assigned readings

**PART IV:
Complexifying meaning and communication: beyond the literal**

Tuesday March 8 Lycan chapter 13, “Implicative relations”

Final paper topic list distributed and discussed in class, and posted on cuLearn

Thursday March 10 Grice (1975), “Logic and Conversation”

Tuesday March 15 Lycan chapter 14: “Metaphor”

Thursday March 17 Max Black (1979), “How Metaphors Work: A Reply to Donald Davidson”

**PART V:
Language, mind, and society**

Tuesday March 22 A. Gopnik, (2003), “The Theory Theory as an Alternative to the Innateness Hypothesis”
Final paper proposal due

Thursday March 24 C.M. Fausey, B.L. Long, A. Inamori, and L. Boroditsky (2010), “Constructing Agency: The Role of Language”

Tuesday March 29 C. Adams (2006), “The War on Compassion”

Thursday March 31 Final paper workshop

Tuesday April 5 A. Mercier (1995), “A Perverse Case of the Contingent A Priori: On the Logic of Emasculating Language (A Reply to Dawkins and Dummett)”

Thursday April 7th Readings TBA
Final paper due Friday April 8th

On the following page you will find the full list of policies of Carleton’s philosophy department.
NOTE: This syllabus is as complete as possible, but some details will be filled in as the class progresses, and some minor changes may be implemented as necessary.

Department of Philosophy and Carleton University Policies (2015-16)

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:
 - student name
 - student number
 - course number and section
 - instructor's name
- 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://calendar.carleton.ca/undergrad/regulations/academicregulationsoftheuniversity/acadregsuniv14/>)

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 your professor 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 your professor 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 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 your professor 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. 2	Classes start.
Sept. 4	Classes follow a Monday schedule.
Sept. 7	Labour Day - University closed.
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. 12	Thanksgiving Day – University closed.
Oct. 26-30	Fall Break – no classes.
Nov. 24	Last day for tests or examinations in courses below 4000-level before the Final Examination period.
Dec. 7	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. 7	Last day to withdraw from Fall term courses (academic purposes only).
Dec. 8	No classes or examinations take place. Review classes may be held, but no new material may be introduced.
Dec. 9-21	Final examinations for Fall courses, mid-terms for Fall/Winter courses. Exams are normally held all seven days of the week.
Dec. 21	Take-home exams are due.
Jan. 6	Winter term classes begin.
Jan. 19	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. 15-19	Winter Break, no classes.
Mar. 24	Last day for tests or examinations in courses below 4000-level before the Final Examination period.
Mar. 25	Good Friday – University closed.
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. 11-23	Final Examinations. Exams are normally held all seven days of the week.
Apr. 23	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