

PHIL/LING/COMM 2504

Winter 2018, Tuesdays and Thursdays 5:35-6:55pm

Instructor: Dr. Katherine Wayne

Office hours: Thursdays 3:30-4:30, or by appointment

Office: 3A38 Paterson Hall (3rd floor, Department of Philosophy)

E-mail: katherinewayne@cunet.carleton.ca

Teaching Assistant: TBA

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. These 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 debates in psychology, ethics, and politics, as well as to concrete challenges in understanding and getting along with one another in the world.

CLASS TEXTS

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

Available for purchase at campus bookstore at start of term, and through online sellers. *Notes: Used copies should be readily available. Be sure to get the 2nd edition.

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

Readings outside of 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 to avoid 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. Be sure 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.

I will use cuLearn for basic class functions, including posting lecture slides. Please be aware that use of cuLearn cannot be substituted for class attendance.

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, 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 (20%)

Five 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 four of the assignments will be included in your final grade. Those four will each be worth 5% of your final grade.

2) Midterm (35%)

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

3) Final assignment (45%):

Proposal submission and workshop participation (5%)

Paper (40%)

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

Final topics and detailed instructions regarding the final paper will be available on Tuesday March 6th. The proposal for your final paper is due on Thursday March 29th. The mandatory workshop will take place in class on Thursday April 5th.

The final paper is due Wednesday April 11th (for automatic comments).

READINGS AND CLASS SCHEDULE

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

Tuesday January 9	Introduction: no assigned readings
Thursday January 11	Gottlob Frege (1918), “The Thought: A Logical Inquiry”
Tuesday January 16	Donald Davidson (1985), “A Nice Derangement of Epitaphs”
Thursday January 18	Noam Chomsky (1988), “Language and the Problems of Knowledge” (guest)

PART II:

Theories of meaning

Tuesday January 23	Lycan chapter 1 “Introduction: Meaning and Reference” <i>*No class; bonus quiz on Lycan chap. 1 via cuLearn</i>
Thursday January 25	Frege (1892), “On Sense and Reference”
Tuesday January 30	Lycan chapter 2 “Definite Descriptions”
Thursday February 1	Lycan chapter 3 “Proper Names: The Description Theory”
Tuesday February 6	Lycan chapter 4 “Proper Names: Direct Reference and the Causal-Historical Theory”
Thursday February 8	Saul Kripke (1972), Selection from <i>Naming and Necessity</i>
Tuesday February 13	Lycan chapter 6 “‘Use’ Theories” and Lycan chapter 7, “Psychological Theories: Grice’s Program
Thursday February 15	Lycan chapter 8, “Verificationism” and chapter 9, “Truth Condition Theories: Davidson’s Program”

February 20 and 22: no classes (reading break)

Tuesday February 27	Michael Dummett (1975), “What is a Theory of Meaning”?
Thursday March 1	Dummett part 2, catch up, and exam review
Tuesday March 6	<i>*In-class midterm exam, no assigned readings</i> <i>*Final paper topic list available</i>

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

Thursday March 8	Lycan chapter 13, “Implicative relations”
Tuesday March 13	Grice (1975), “Logic and Conversation”
Thursday March 15	Lycan chapter 14: “Metaphor”
Tuesday March 20	Max Black (1979), “How Metaphors Work: A Reply to Donald Davidson”

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

Thursday March 22	A. Gopnik, (2003), “The Theory Theory as an Alternative to the Innateness Hypothesis” *Final paper proposal due
Tuesday March 27	C.M. Fausey, B.L. Long, A. Inamori, and L. Boroditsky (2010), “Constructing Agency: The Role of Language”
Thursday March 29	C. Adams (2006), “The War on Compassion”
Tuesday April 3	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 5	<i>*Final paper workshop; no assigned readings</i>
Tuesday April 10	Readings TBA *Final paper due Wednesday April 11

Note: this syllabus is as complete as possible, but minor changes may be announced and implemented as needed.

Department of Philosophy and Carleton University Policies (Fall/Winter 2017-18)

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 Final Exams:

If you miss a final examination (formally scheduled or take-home) because of circumstances beyond your control, you may apply for a deferral. You must apply within 3 working days after the scheduled date of your formally scheduled exam or within 3 working days after the due date of a take-home exam. Visit the Registrar's Office for more information:

<http://calendar.carleton.ca/undergrad/regulations/academicregulationsoftheuniversity/acadregsuniv2/#2.5>

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. <https://carleton.ca/registrar/academic-integrity/>

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. 6	Classes start.
Sept. 19	Last day for registration and course changes for Fall term and Fall/Winter (two-term) courses.
Sept. 30	Last day for entire fee adjustment when withdrawing from Fall term or two-term courses.
Oct. 9	Statutory holiday. University closed.
Oct. 23-27	Fall Break – no classes.
Nov. 24	Last day for summative or final examinations in Fall term courses before the official examination period.
Dec. 8	Last day of Fall term classes. Classes follow a Monday schedule. Last day for academic withdrawal from Fall term courses. 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 a Fall term course.
Dec. 10-22	Final examinations for Fall term courses and mid-term examinations in two-term courses. Examinations are normally held all seven days of the week.
Dec. 22	All take-home examinations are due.
Jan. 8	Classes begin.
Jan. 19	Last day for registration and course changes in the Winter term.
Jan. 31	Last day for a full fee adjustment when withdrawing from Winter term courses or from the Winter portion of two-term courses.
Feb. 19	Statutory holiday. University closed.
Feb. 19-23	Winter Break – no classes.
Mar. 27	Last day for summative or final examinations in Winter term or two-term courses before the official examination period.
Mar. 30	Statutory holiday. University closed.
Apr. 11	Last day of two-term and Winter term classes. Classes follow a Friday schedule. Last day for academic withdrawal from Fall/Winter and Winter courses. Last day for handing in term work and the last day that can be specified by a course instructor as a due date for two-term and for Winter term courses.
Apr. 14-26	Final examinations for Winter term and two-term courses. Examinations are normally held all seven days of the week.
Apr. 26	All take home examinations are due on this day.

Addresses:

Department of Philosophy:	3A35 Paterson Hall www.carleton.ca/philosophy 520-2110
Registrar's Office:	300 Tory www.carleton.ca/registrar 520-3500
Academic Advising Centre:	302 Tory www.carleton.ca/academicadvising 520-7850
Writing Services:	4 th Floor, Library http://www.carleton.ca/csas/writing-services/ 520-3822
MacOdrum Library	http://www.library.carleton.ca/ 520-2735