

Professor Elisabeth Camp

Office: 426 Logan Hall

Office Hours: Thursday 2-4 and by appointment

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The primary texts are Martinich: *The Philosophy of Language*, 4th ed., and Kripke: *Naming and Necessity*, both available at the Penn Book Center. Additional readings, marked on the syllabus, will be posted on the course website on Blackboard.

Course Description:

In this course we will ask how language works. How do we manage to use sounds and shapes to make claims, promises, and threats? What makes a certain sound or shape be about, or refer to, something in the world, as “the sun” refers to the sun? And how can we use those sounds or shapes to talk about other things, as when Romeo says “Juliet is the sun”? Answering these questions will require us to look closely at the complex interaction between specific language users and general linguistic conventions.

Course Requirements:

- Two short papers, 4-5 pages (25% each of course grade).
- A final paper, 12-15 pages (35% of course grade).
- Attendance and participation (15% of course grade).
- Daily readings: you must do the assigned reading before class. Always bring the text to class, since we'll often be going through it in some detail.

This course will be run as a seminar; the discussion will be more useful and more enjoyable the more effort you put in to preparing for class. I will post a few study questions for each reading on Blackboard, by the end of the previous week. These questions are intended to focus your attention and to prompt your own questions about the material. For each class, you should sketch a short response to the questions, and come up with at least one question of your own. If you must miss class, you should make up the absence by writing a short response (less than a page) to one of the questions.

Except in extreme conditions, extensions on papers must be granted well before the due date and are granted at my discretion; otherwise, late papers will be downgraded 1/3 letter grade per day.

You are expected to be familiar with and to abide by Penn's policy on academic and intellectual integrity: <http://www.vpul.upenn.edu/osl/acadint.html>.

Some useful online resources:

Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy: plato.stanford.edu

A Glossary of Linguistic Terms: www.sil.org/linguistics/GlossaryOfLinguisticTerms

The Oxford English Corpus: www.askoxford.com/oec/mainpage/?view=uk

Schedule of Readings (subject to revision!)

Tu 1/9 Introduction

Meaning, Speech Acts, and Communication

Th 1/11 Grice: “Meaning”

Tu 1/16 Brandom: “Asserting” (on Blackboard)

- Th 1/18 Austin: “Performative Utterances”
 Searle: “A Taxonomy of Illocutionary Acts”
 Tu 1/23 Searle: “The Structure of Illocutionary Acts”, “Indirect Speech Acts”

Sense, Reference, and Descriptions

- Th 1/25 Frege: “On Sense and Reference”
 Tu 1/30 Frege: “Function and Concept” (on Blackboard)
 Th 2/1 Russell: “On Denoting,” “Descriptions”
 Tu 2/6 Strawson: “On Referring”
 Russell: “Mr. Strawson on Referring”
 Th 2/8 Donnellan: “Reference and Definite Descriptions”
First Paper Topics Handed Out
 Tu 2/13 Grice: “Logic and Conversation”, “Further Notes” (on Blackboard)
 Th 2/15 Bach: “Conversational Implicature” (on Blackboard)

Names and Demonstratives

- Tu 2/20 Searle: “Proper Names” (on Blackboard)
 Kripke: *Naming and Necessity*, Lecture 1
FIRST PAPERS DUE
 Th 2/22 Kripke: *Naming and Necessity*, Lecture 2
Tu 2/27 (Class to be rescheduled)
 Kripke: *Naming and Necessity*, Lecture 3
 Th 3/1 Perry: “The Problem of the Essential Indexical”

3/6-8 SPRING BREAK

Meaning, Definitions, and Externalism

- Tu 3/13 Wittgenstein: *Philosophical Investigations* §§65-78 (on Blackboard)
 Quine: “Two Dogmas of Empiricism”
Second Paper Topics Handed Out
 Th 3/15 Putnam: “Meaning and Reference” (on Blackboard)
 Tu 3/20 Burge: “Individualism and the Mental” (on Blackboard)

Ideolects and Languages

- Th 3/22 Davidson: “A Nice Derangement of Epitaphs”
 Tu 3/27 Kripke: “Speaker’s Reference and Semantic Reference” (on Blackboard)
SECOND PAPERS DUE
 Th 3/29 Lewis: “Languages and Language”
 Tu 4/3 Kripke: “On Rules and Private Language”
Th 4/5 NO CLASS
 Tu 4/10 Topic to be chosen by class
 Th 4/12 Topic to be chosen by class
Final Paper Topic Handed Out
 Tu 4/17 Topic to be chosen by class
 Th 4/19 Review and Conclusion
Friday 5/4 FINAL PAPERS DUE