

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*, 4<sup>th</sup> 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 speakers use sounds and shapes to make claims, promises, and threats? How do words and sentences connect to the world: what makes a word refer to an object or property, and what determines when a sentence is true or false? And how do speakers exploit conventional linguistic meaning for alternative ends, as in metaphor and sarcasm? We will approach these questions by reading classic texts by Frege, Russell, Austin, Grice, Searle, Kripke, Quine, Davidson, and others; but we will also apply these readings to actual, everyday linguistic contexts. Some comfort with basic first-order predicate logic will be required, but no previous experience with formal logic is assumed: I will explain all the relevant symbolism in class.

### **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 and responses: 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.

As much as possible, this course will be conducted in a discussion format; the more effort you put in to preparing for class, the more useful and more enjoyable the class will be for everyone. I will post study questions for each reading on Blackboard by the end of the prior week; these should help you focus your attention and prompt your own questions about the material. For each class, you should make sure you can answer these questions, and come prepared 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](http://plato.stanford.edu)

A Glossary of Linguistic Terms: [www.sil.org/linguistics/GlossaryOfLinguisticTerms](http://www.sil.org/linguistics/GlossaryOfLinguisticTerms)

The Oxford English Corpus: [www.askoxford.com/oec/mainpage/?view=uk](http://www.askoxford.com/oec/mainpage/?view=uk)

Language Log: <http://languagelog.idc.upenn.edu/nll/>

**Schedule of Readings (very much subject to revision!)**

Th 1/15 Introduction

**Meaning, Convention, and Communication**

Tu 1/20 Grice: "Meaning"  
 Th 1/22 Grice cont'd  
 Tu 1/27 Brandom: "Asserting" (on Blackboard)  
 Th 1/29 Brandom cont'd  
 Tu 2/3 Austin: "Performative Utterances"  
 Th 2/5 Searle: "A Taxonomy of Illocutionary Acts"

**Sense, Reference, and Descriptions**

Tu 2/10 Frege: "On Sense and Reference"  
 Th 2/12 Frege cont'd  
 Tu 2/17 Frege: "Function and Concept" (on Blackboard)  
 Th 2/19 Russell: "On Denoting," "Descriptions"  
 Tu 2/24 Russell cont'd  
 Tu 2/26 Strawson: "On Referring"  
 Russell: "Mr. Strawson on Referring"  
**First Paper Topics Handed Out**  
 Th 2/28 Strawson and Russell cont'd  
 Tu 3/3 Donnellan: "Reference and Definite Descriptions"  
 Th 3/5 Donnellan cont'd  
**FIRST PAPER DUE**  
**3/10-12 SPRING BREAK**

**Names and Pronouns**

Tu 3/17 Kripke: *Naming and Necessity*, Lecture 1  
 Th 3/19 Kripke cont'd  
 Tu 3/24 Kripke: *Naming and Necessity*, Lecture 2  
 Kripke cont'd  
 Th 3/26 Perry: "The Problem of the Essential Indexical"  
**Second Paper Topics Handed Out**

**Indirect and Non-Literal Speech**

Tu 3/31 Grice: "Logic and Conversation"  
 Th 4/2 Grice cont'd  
 Tu 4/7 Searle: "Indirect Speech Acts"  
**SECOND PAPER DUE**  
 Th 4/9 Kripke: "Speaker's Reference and Semantic Reference" (on Blackboard)  
 Tu 4/14 Bach: "Conversational Implicature" (on Blackboard)  
 Th 4/16 Sperber & Wilson: "Loose Talk"  
 Tu 4/21 Martinich: "Metaphor"  
 Tu 4/23 Davidson: "What Metaphors Mean"  
 Tu 4/28 Review and Conclusion  
**Final Paper Topic Handed Out**  
**Friday 5/4 FINAL PAPERS DUE**