

**DEREE COLLEGE SYLLABUS FOR: PH 4040 LANGUAGE, TRUTH AND LOGIC**

(Fall 2022)

**UK LEVEL 6  
UK CREDITS: 15  
US CREDITS: 3/0/3**

**PREREQUISITES:**

None

**CATALOG DESCRIPTION:**

A course that examines issues from philosophy of language, elementary logic and philosophy of computation from both a conceptual and a historical perspective. Thorough discussion of basic concepts such as meaning, reference, truth, concepts of logic, translation and computation.

**RATIONALE:**

Philosophy of language and logic are main areas of philosophical discussion in the twentieth century, with ongoing concerns. Its study makes possible the elucidation and reformulation of many traditional issues in epistemology and metaphysics. Essential for students interested in contemporary philosophy, but also useful to anyone interested in computer science and linguistics.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

- As a result of taking this course, the student should be able to:
1. Apply concepts and techniques in symbolic logic.
  2. Critically evaluate major theories of truth, meaning and computation conceptually and historically.
  3. Apply concepts and methods of philosophy of language and logic to the study of sciences and linguistics.

**METHOD OF TEACHING AND LEARNING:**

- In congruence with the learning and teaching strategy of the college, the following tools are used:
- Classes consist of lectures and interactive learning (class discussions of both primary and secondary sources).
  - Office hours: Students are encouraged to make full use of the office hours of their lecturer, where they can discuss the course material.
  - Use of a Blackboard site, where lecturers can post lecture notes, term paper instructions, timely announcements, and additional resources.
  - Use of library facilities: Students are encouraged to make use of the library facilities for their research paper as well as for preparation for the final exam.

**ASSESSMENT:**

**Summative:**

First Assessment: Midterm examination - Short questions and exercises in symbolic logic	<b>40%</b>
Final Assessment: Research paper (3,000-3,500 words) - Literature review/ interpretation of texts/evaluation	<b>60%</b>

**Formative:**

Class presentation (individual or group)	<b>0%</b>

	<p>The formative assessment aims at preparing students for their research paper.  The first assessment tests Learning Outcome 1.  The final assessment tests Learning Outcomes 2 and 3.</p> <p>The final grade for this module will not be determined through grade averaging. Students are required to resit any failed assessments.</p>
<b>INDICATIVE READING:</b>	<p><b>REQUIRED READING:</b>  Hacking, Ian. <u>Why Does Language Matter to Philosophy?</u> Cambridge University Press, latest edition.</p> <p>Restall, G. <u>Logic: An Introduction</u> (Fundamentals of Philosophy), Routledge 2006.</p> <p><b>RECOMMENDED READING:</b>  Ayer, A.J. <u>Language, Truth and Logic</u>. Dover, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., 1952.</p> <p>Davis, M. <u>Engines of Logic</u>. W. W. Norton &amp; Co., 2000.</p> <p>Devitt, M. &amp; Hanley, R. <u>The Blackwell Guide to the Philosophy of Language</u>. Blackwell, 2006.</p> <p><u>Martinich, P. ed. The Philosophy of Language</u>. Oxford University Press, 2008.</p> <p>Passmore, John. <u>A Hundred Years of Philosophy</u>. Penguin, 1968.</p> <p>Passmore, John. <u>Recent Philosophers</u>. Duckworth, latest edition (Book on reserve in the Library).</p>
<b>INDICATIVE MATERIAL:</b> (e.g. audiovisual, digital material, etc.)	<p><b>RECOMMENDED MATERIAL:</b>  <i>Philosophical Review</i>  <i>Journal of Philosophy</i>  <i>Nous</i>  <i>Mind</i>  <i>Philosophy &amp; Phenomenological Research</i>  <i>Australasian Journal of Philosophy</i></p>
<b>COMMUNICATION REQUIREMENTS:</b>	<p>Research paper in Microsoft Word.  Analysis of primary literature and class discussion in professional English and advanced speech skills.</p>
<b>SOFTWARE REQUIREMENTS:</b>	<p>Microsoft Word</p>
<b>WWW RESOURCES:</b>	<p><a href="http://plato.stanford.edu/">http://plato.stanford.edu/</a>  <a href="http://www.utm.edu/research/iep/">http://www.utm.edu/research/iep/</a>  <a href="http://hippias.evansville.edu/">http://hippias.evansville.edu/</a>  <a href="http://philpapers.org/browse/philosophy-of-language">http://philpapers.org/browse/philosophy-of-language</a></p>

**INDICATIVE CONTENT:**

**1. Language in modern philosophy**

- 1.1 Hobbes on language
- 1.2 Locke on ideas and meanings
- 1.3 Berkeley on abstract ideas

**2. What is Logic?**

- 2.2 The Syntax of Propositional Logic
- 2.2. Deduction
- 2.3 Semantics: Truth-tables
- 2.4 Predicate, names and quantifiers

**3. What is Truth?**

- 3.1 Tarski on truth
- 3.2 Coherence theory of truth
- 3.3 Pragmatic theory of truth

**5. What is Meaning?**

- 5.1 Frege: Sense and reference
- 5.2 Descriptive Theories of Meaning (Russell)
- 5.4 Verificationism (Ayer)
- 5.4 Skepticism about meaning (Quine)
- 5.5. Essentialism and theories of reference (Kripke, Putnam)
- 5.6 Davidson: Radical interpretation

**6. What is Computation?**

- 6.1 Turing computation