

**DEREE COLLEGE SYLLABUS FOR: PH 4130 PHILOSOPHY OF LANGUAGE**

(Updated Spring 2019)

**UK LEVEL 6**  
**UK CREDITS: 15**  
**US CREDITS: 3/0/3****PREREQUISITES:**PH 1000 Introduction to Philosophy **or**  
PH 3011 Introduction to Logic**CATALOG DESCRIPTION:**

Introduction to the philosophy of language and contemporary analytic philosophy. Overview of major theories held by Frege, Russell, Wittgenstein, Austin, Quine, Kripke, and others. Thorough discussion of basic concepts such as meaning, reference, truth, metaphor, and translation.

**RATIONALE:**

Philosophy of language is one of the 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 literature, literary criticism and linguistics.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

- As a result of taking this course, the student should be able to:
1. Demonstrate knowledge of the history of the philosophy of language.
  2. Analyze and define some of the main problems and the solutions that have been proposed.
  3. Evaluate the contribution of philosophy of language to other philosophical areas (especially logic, epistemology and metaphysics) and to contemporary philosophy in general.
  4. Apply the methods the theories and the conclusions of the philosophy of language to the study of science, linguistics and literature.
  5. Find and formulate major issues in the area of the theory of meaning.
  6. Discuss and construct positions concerning the major issues in the philosophy of language.

**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).

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Office hours: Students are encouraged to make full use of the office hours of their lecturer, where they can discuss the course material.</li> <li>- Use of a Blackboard site, where lecturers can post lecture notes, term paper instructions, timely announcements, and additional resources.</li> <li>- 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.</li> </ul>								
<b>ASSESSMENT:</b>	<p><b>Summative:</b></p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Midterm examination (1-hour) Essay-type questions</td><td><b>40%</b></td></tr> <tr> <td>Research paper (3,000 words) Literature review/ interpretation of texts/ evaluation</td><td><b>60%</b></td></tr> </table> <p><b>Formative:</b></p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Class presentation (individual or group)</td><td><b>0%</b></td></tr> <tr> <td></td><td></td></tr> </table> <p>The formative assessment aims at preparing students for their research paper. The midterm examination tests Learning Outcomes 2, 3, 5. The research paper tests Learning Outcomes 1, 4, 5, 6.</p>	Midterm examination (1-hour) Essay-type questions	<b>40%</b>	Research paper (3,000 words) Literature review/ interpretation of texts/ evaluation	<b>60%</b>	Class presentation (individual or group)	<b>0%</b>		
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Class presentation (individual or group)	<b>0%</b>								
<b>INDICATIVE READING:</b>	<p><b>REQUIRED READING:</b> Soames, Scott. <u>Philosophy of Language</u>. Princeton University Press, 2010.</p> <p><b>RECOMMENDED READING:</b> Ayer, A.J. <u>Language, Truth and Logic</u>. Dover, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., 1952.</p> <p>Devitt, M. &amp; Hanley, R. <u>The Blackwell Guide to the Philosophy of Language</u>. Blackwell, 2006.</p> <p>Martinich, P. ed. <u>The Philosophy of Language</u>. Oxford University Press, 2008.</p> <p>Passmore, John. <u>A Hundred Years of Philosophy</u>. Penguin, 1968.</p> <p>Hacking, Ian. <u>Why Does Language Matter to Philosophy?</u> Cambridge University Press, latest edition.</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.)	<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>
<b>COMMUNICATION REQUIREMENTS:</b>	Research paper in Microsoft Word. Analysis of primary literature and class discussion in professional English and advanced speech skills.
<b>SOFTWARE REQUIREMENTS:</b>	Microsoft Word
<b>WWW RESOURCES:</b>	<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>
<b>INDICATIVE CONTENT:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Historical introduction <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.1 From Plato to Locke</li> <li>1.2 From Locke to the present</li> <li>1.3 Analytic tradition: From Frege to Kripke</li> <li>1.4 Continental tradition: From Herder to Derrida</li> </ol> </li> <li>2. Frege: Sense and reference</li> <li>3. Tarski and theories of truth</li> <li>4. Logical empiricism (Carnap, Hempel, Ayer)</li> <li>5. Logical atomism (Russell, early Wittgenstein)</li> <li>6. Ordinary language philosophy (later Wittgenstein, Austin, Searle)</li> <li>7. The influence of linguistics (Saussure, Chomsky)</li> <li>8. Nominalism and theory of translation (Quine, Goodman)</li> <li>9. Essentialism and theories of reference (Kripke, Putnam)</li> <li>10. Davidson: Radical interpretation</li> <li>11. Latest developments and the future of the field</li> </ol>