PHILOSOPHY OF LANGUAGE

Philosophy of language concerns meaning, reference, and communication, and has massively influenced recent philosophy. This intermediate course surveys: names, descriptions, kind terms, indexicals, ascriptions, conversation, truth, and meaning.

PREREQUISITES PHIL20 + 3 units of philosophy, or permission.

PLACE/TIME MAC D115, Monday & Thursday 11:30am-12:50pm (spring 2016)

INSTRUCTOR Dr Mike Raven (mike@raven.site | http://raven.site)

OFFICE HOURS CLE B323 Monday 2:30-4:30pm, or by appointment.

WEBSITE http://coursespaces.uvic.ca/course/view.php?id=14445

TEXTS
• MARTINICH & SOSA (eds.), Philosophy of Language (6th ed.) [P]
• KRIPKE, Naming and Necessity

EVALUATION

GRADES A++>90 A=90-88.5 A−>84.5 B+>79.7 B>76-73 B−>72-70 C+>69.5 C>66-60 C−>60-59 D>59-50 F<50

RUBRIC The grade you earn depends solely on your work in this course. Submitting all work is required to pass. No extra credit. Your work is evaluated for its craftsmanship and skill (for elaboration, consult http://raven.site/teaching/[Raven] Philosophy Rubric.pdf).

WORK
• 3 problem sets (90%) Due (tentative): FEB8, MAR7, APR11
• Participation (10%): engaging with the course material in or out of class, including (but not limited to) discussion in class and with the instructor during office hours or over email.

LATENESS If you do not expect to finish work on time, submit what you have done on time. Except in extreme circumstances (instructor’s discretion), extensions require documented justification before the due date and will not go past the return of timely work. Late work is penalized 5 points per day late and does not receive comments.

DISABILITY Consult with the Resource Center and instructor at the beginning of the term for resources and accommodations.

CONDUCT

You agree to abide by a social contract of conduct by enrolling in this course:

CLASS Attending and contributing to class helps train your philosophical skills. It is not just for your benefit, but also for your classmates. Prepare (do the reading), attend, and contribute. And be respectful: do not interrupt, bully, ramble, distract, dominate, or insult anyone.

CONTACT You are welcome to seek guidance in office hours or by email. Please be respectful: communicate professionally, do not expect answers to questions already answered by official sources (e.g. syllabus, course site, class), and allow ample time for replies.

RECORDING Audio/visual recordings require instructor’s prior consent, or an approved accommodation plan. Do not distribute them publicly.
Guests are not permitted without instructor’s prior consent.

Plagiarism is not tolerated. Ignorance is no excuse. Read: http://web.uvic.ca/calendar2015-09/FACS/UnIn/UARe/PoAcl.html

Please complete a course experience survey (CES) at http://ces.uvic.ca.

### Schedule

Tentative schedule: see website for updates. Click underlined readings to read online.

#### Names

**Jan 4, 7, 11, 14**
- Frege, “On Sense and Reference” [p2]
- Kripke, Naming and Necessity (lectures I-II)

#### Descriptions

**Jan 18, 21, 25, 28**
- Donnellan, “Reference and Definite Descriptions” [p12]
- Kripke, “Speaker’s Reference and Semantic Reference” [p13]

#### Kind Terms

**Feb 1, 4**
- Kripke, Naming and Necessity (lecture III)
- Putnam, “Meaning and Reference” [p5]

#### Indexicals

**Feb 15, 18, 22**
- Kaplan, “Demonstratives” [p36]
- Perry, “The Problem of the Essential Indexical” [p37]

#### Ascriptions

**Feb 25, 29**
- Quine, “Quantifiers and Propositional Attitudes” [p14]
- Kripke, “A Puzzle about Belief” [p18]

#### Conversation

**Mar 7, 10**
- Grice, “Logic and Conversation” [p24]
- Stalnaker, “Assertion” [p35]

#### Truth

**Mar 14, 17, 21**
- Tarski, “The Semantic Conception of Truth” (§1) [p28]
- Davidson, “Truth and Meaning” [p30]
- Horwich, “What’s Truth Got to do With It?”

#### Meaning

**Mar 24, Apr 4**
- Grice, “Meaning” [p21]
- Searle, “What is a Speech Act?”
- Lewis, “Languages and Language” [p46]