

LANGUAGE AND ATTITUDE PROBLEMS

PHIL462/561

Some of the central problems in the philosophy of language concern ascriptions and reports of attitudes such as beliefs and desires. This seminar surveys some of the most puzzling of these problems and explores in depth a recent, novel approach to solving them.

PREREQUISITES PHIL316, PHIL354, or permission.

PLACE/TIME CLE B315, Mon 3:30—6:20pm

INSTRUCTOR DR Mike Raven (✉ mike@mikeraven.net • mikeraven.net)
OFFICE HOURS • CLE B323 Mon/Thu 11:30am—12:30pm, or appointment.

COURSESPACE coursespaces.uvic.ca/course/view.php?id=65133 (Consult for all official course documents.)

TEXTS

- Fine, *Semantic Relationism*
- Kripke, *Naming and Necessity*

EVALUATION

GRADES The grade you earn is determined by the quality of your work in this course. The university's scale is used: **A+**⁹⁰ **A**⁸⁹⁻⁸⁵ **A-**⁸⁴⁻⁸⁰ **B+**⁷⁹⁻⁷⁷ **B**⁷⁶⁻⁷³ **B-**⁷²⁻⁷⁰ **C+**⁶⁹⁻⁶⁵ **C**⁶⁴⁻⁶⁰ **D**⁵⁹⁻⁵⁰ **F**^{<50}

WORK

Term Paper (40%) • Due (*tentative*): DEC 9

Problem Sets (30%) • Sporadic problem sets on various topics.

Participation (30%) • Engagement with the course, including: contributions to class and online forum, communication with the instructor, and class presentations/discussion leading.

RUBRIC Work is evaluated for craftsmanship, in accordance with the guidelines in:
[mikeraven.net/teaching/\[Raven\] Philosophy Rubric.pdf](http://mikeraven.net/teaching/[Raven] Philosophy Rubric.pdf)

GRACE POINTS A **grace point** can be used to delay a due date by 1 day. Each student begins with 5 grace points. Points can be used in any combination at the students' discretion (no justification needed). But points cannot be reused, traded, or earned.

- To use, write at the beginning of your assignment 'Using # **grace points**' (replace # with the number of grace points). *This is the only way to use grace points.*

LATENESS Unexcused late work is penalized 5% per day late and is not entitled to feedback.

POLICIES

CONDUCT Enrolling binds you to a social contract with your instructor and classmates:

- **Be prepared.** Read the syllabus. Do the reading before class. Attend class.
- **Be respectful.** In class, don't bully or distract. In work, follow RUBRIC §3.4.
- **Be professional.** Check sources first (don't expect replies to questions answered by the syllabus). Follow etiquette. Allow time for replies.

ACCESSIBILITY Arrange accommodations with CAL. Other accommodation requests (e.g. extra credit, extensions, alternate/make-up work) will *not* be considered, except under extraordinary circumstances (instructor's discretion) and when both the request and suitable documentation are received no more than 3 days after the due date.

PRIVACY Course documents are the instructor's intellectual property. Do not distribute. Recordings permitted only with instructor's prior consent. Do not distribute.

GUESTS Guests permitted only with instructor's prior consent.

INTEGRITY Plagiarism and cheating are not tolerated. Ignorance is no excuse. Read:
web.uvic.ca/calendar2019-09/undergrad/info/regulations/academic-integrity.html

SCHEDULE

This schedule is *tentative*: see [coursespace](#) for updates and updated links to readings.

Read all assigned readings for each class (including the first on SEP 9). Be prepared to discuss the readings in each class.

- SEP 9
 - Heim and Kratzer, *Semantics in Generative Grammar* (chapters 1 and 2)
 - [Frege, "The Thought"](#)
- 16
 - Frege, "On Sense and Reference"
 - [Russell, "On Denoting"](#)
- 23
 - Kripke, *Naming and Necessity* (lectures I and II)
- 30
 - Kripke, "A Puzzle about Belief"
 - [Richard, "Direct Reference and Ascriptions of Belief"](#) (439-440)
- OCT 7
 - Salmon, *Frege's Puzzle* (chapters 7.2,8)
 - [Saul, "The Pragmatics of Attitude Ascription"](#)
 - [Braun, "Understanding Belief Reports"](#)
- 21
 - Fine, *Semantic Relationism* (chapter 1)
- 28
 - Fine, *Semantic Relationism* (chapter 2)
- NOV 4
 - Fine, *Semantic Relationism* (chapter 3)
- 18
 - Fine, *Semantic Relationism* (chapter 4)
- 25
 - [Soames, "Coordination Problems"](#)
 - [Fine, "Comments on Scott Soames' 'Coordination Problems'"](#)
 - [Lawlor, "Varieties of Coreference"](#)
 - [Fine, "Reply to Lawlor's 'Varieties of Coreference'"](#)
 - [Hovda, "Semantics as Information about Semantic Values"](#)
 - [Fine, "Comments on Paul Hovda's 'Semantics as Information About Semantic Values'"](#)
- DEC 2
 - Term Paper Workshop