

PHILOSOPHY OF LANGUAGE I

Professor María de Ponte Azkarate

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1. Program

A. Meaning and Reference

- Frege: Sense and Reference
- Russell: On Denotation
- Strawson: On Referring
- Donnellan: Reference and Definite Descriptions
- Kripke: *Naming and Necessity*

B. Meaning and Truth

- Wittgenstein: *Tractatus Logicus Philosophicus*

C. Meaning and Intention

- Grice: Meaning

D. Meaning and Action

- Austin: Performative Utterances

E. Meaning and Communication

- Grice: Logic and Conversation

2. Mandatory texts

1. Frege: Sense and Reference
2. Russell: On Denoting
3. Strawson: On Referring
4. Donnellan: Reference and Definite Descriptions

5. Kripke: *Naming and Necessity* (Fragments)
6. Wittgenstein: *Tractatus* (Fragments)
7. Grice: Meaning
8. Austin: Performative Utterances
9. Grice: Logic and Conversation

3. Bibliografia

1. Korta, Kepa & John Perry (2006). "Pragmatics". *The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (Revised 2015), Edward N. Zalta (ed.), URL=<http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/pragmatics/>
2. Lycan, William (1999), *Philosophy of Language*. London: Routledge.
3. Martinich, Aloysius P. (ed.): *The Philosophy of Language*. Oxford U. Press, 1990.
4. Taylor, Kent (1998), *Truth and meaning*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

4. Requirements

I describe below the assignments and grading for anyone who wants to attend the course on a regular basis, do the assignments and be graded accordingly. What we might call "continuous evaluation". Any student who does not want to follow this method, or who does not fulfil one or more of the requirements detailed below can opt to do "non-continuous evaluation": a final exam that will count as 100 % of their final grade.

Assignments

- a. Question answering or text commentary (400-800 words).
- b. 1 short paper (1200-1600 words) discussing one claim or argument made in one (or more) of the readings.
- c. An oral presentation of the paper.
- d. Discussion in class of the assigned readings.
- e. Written exam.

Grading

- The final grade will be based on (a)-(d) above (50 %) and (e) the written exam's grade (50 %).
- Attendance is compulsory (80 %)

- Failure to satisfactorily do one or more of the assignments entails losing the right to do “continuous evaluation” and doing the final (longer) exam. In this case, the final grade will be the exam’s grade.

Some notes about the papers

- If you can’t complete your papers to your satisfaction, you are better off handing in some version of it showing some work than nothing at all.
- Drafts. I’m happy to talk over your ideas with you as often as you like, but I don’t read drafts of papers.
- Papers should be emailed to maria.deponte@ehu.eus
- The subject line of the email should be in the form: Phil of Lang I/YOUR NAME/PAPER
- Put your name on the paper.
- Attach the paper in Word or similar (do not attach it in pdf.)

Remember that this is an academic paper, so it will have to meet some basic requirements:

- References have to be included and have to be correct (all and only all of the works cited in the work have to be included, correct format, etc.)
- Do not present a summary, or a survey paper. The requirement is to present a paper that aims to contribute something original to the discussion of any of the philosophical issues discussed in the course. This implies:
 - Choosing a topic/problem/question that interests you, that is adequate to the length of the paper and to your abilities (i.e. do not try to say too much),
 - doing some research on the topic,
 - presenting the topic to be discussed clearly,
 - defending a view and, most importantly,
 - giving arguments to do so.
- Be very careful with plagiarism. Using other people’s ideas is ok, if you acknowledge it (either quoting them or mentioning their work and including it in the references)