

210: Philosophy of Language Summer 2014

Instructor: Ricardo Mena

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Time: Tuesday and Thursday 6:00pm-9:40pm

Place: SC 204

Office Hours: to be announced

Philosophy of language has seen a great deal of progress during the last century. The contributions of this branch of philosophy to the whole discipline have been numerous and substantial. In fact, it isn't possible to study a good number of philosophical topics in any depth without some basic knowledge of philosophy of language. During this course we will study some of the main issues in this area of philosophy. For example, we will study notions like meaning, truth, reference, necessity, possibility, as well as some paradoxes and their solutions. We will do so, primarily, by studying philosophy language classics. Students should be aware that a good number of the readings are hard. However, one of the objectives of this course is to develop the skills required to approach those readings.

Readings

There is no textbook for this course. All the readings will be posted on Sakai. But, if you want to buy a book, a good number of the readings are here:

[Martinich, The Philosophy of Language. 5th edn., New York: Oxford University Press](#)

Grading

First exam	20%
Second exam	30%
Paper (8-10 pp)	40%
Attendance	10%

Policy of Absences:

Students are required to attend all classes. If you have to miss one or two classes, please use this absence reporting website: <https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/>

If you cannot submit one of the papers on time and you want to do it later, you will need a Dean's Note to excuse your absence. This is just the official University policy. Also, if you miss more than two classes and you want an excuse, you need a Dean's note.

Academic Integrity:

We will strictly adhere to the University Policy on Academic Integrity:

<http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/integrity.shtml>

Any violations of this policy will be reported immediately to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs. Violations will, at the very least, result in an F on the assignment in questions, but they can result in much more severe penalties.

Here is a tentative list of topics and readings (I may change a few readings depending on how students react to the contents of the course):

Frege

Gottlob Frege, *Begriffsschrift* (sections 3 and 8)

Gottlob Frege, "On Sense and Reference"

Gottlob Frege, "On Concept and Object"

Gottlob Frege, "The Thought: A Logical Inquiry"

Russell and Descriptions

Bertrand Russell, "On Denoting"

Peter Strawson, "On Referring"

Bertrand Russell, "Mr. Strawson on Referring"

Keith Donnellan, "Reference and Definite Descriptions"

Naming and Necessity

Saul Kripke, *Naming and Necessity*

Gareth Evans, "The Causal Theory of Names"

Hilary Putnam, "Meaning and Reference"

Belief Attributions

W.V Quine, "Quantifiers and Propositional Attitudes"

Saul Kripke, "Puzzle about Belief"

Indeterminacy

W.V Quine, "Meaning and Translation"

Saul Kripke, "On Rules and Private Language"

Bertrand Russell, "Vagueness"

Dilia Fara, "Shifting Sands (Fara)"

Diana Raffman, "Vagueness and Paradox"

Pragmatics

Paul Grice, "Logic and Conversation"

David Lewis, "Language and Languages"

Robert Stalnaker, "Assertion"