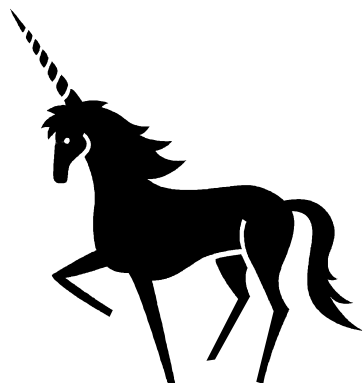


PHIL/LING 4300/6300: Philosophy of Language



Spring 2018
MWF: 1:25 pm – 2:15 pm
105 Peabody Hall
Instructor: Yuri Balashov
Office: 124 Peabody Hall
Email: yuri@uga.edu
Office hours: MW 11:10 am – 12:00 pm
and by appointment



Course website: <http://www.yuribalashov.com/PHIL4300/phil4300.html>

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Philosophy of language is a philosophical study of natural language (such as English, Chinese or Russian). This course is a survey of some of the central topics in contemporary analytic philosophy of language: meaning, reference, truth, proper names and descriptions, propositional attitudes and belief reports, and others. All these topics (and more) can perhaps be traced to a single question: What is it about us, the words we use, and about things in the world which conspire together to allow us to use the words to talk about the things? In virtue of what do certain marks on paper or noises we make when we speak *mean* what they do?

FORMAT:

- A mix of lecture and discussion. Students should be prepared to discuss the material assigned for a given class meeting.

TEXTS:

- A. P. Martinich and David Sosa, eds., *The Philosophy of Language*. 6th ed. New York; Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012. ISBN 978-0199795154. (M) – Required.
- A few additional articles to be downloaded individually (for free) from www.jstor.org and/or other journal database sites from a campus computer or from home with a Galileo password. – Required
- Additional notes and handouts will be available on the course website: <http://www.yuribalashov.com/PHIL4300/phil4300.html>
- William G. Lycan, *Philosophy of Language: A Contemporary Introduction*. 2nd ed. London: Routledge, 2008. ISBN #: 978-0-415-95752-6. – Optional

WORK IN THE COURSE:

Your work in the course will focus on reading and understanding relatively short but extremely dense and heavily analytic texts. This is difficult. Hence it is very important to read carefully and do your best to follow every twist and turn. Sometimes even your hardest effort may be frustrated. This is normal! Make sure to note your problems, questions, and disagreement with the author, and we'll try to sort them out in class.

In addition to introducing the students to a core area of contemporary philosophy the course aims to develop their critical and analytic skills. It requires concentration and willingness to struggle with difficult material. The course presupposes familiarity with first-order logic (the material normally covered in PHIL 2500 or its equivalent). Some familiarity with mathematics would be a plus but is not required. The relevant logical and mathematical background will be introduced more or less from scratch during the first three weeks of the course.

REQUIREMENTS:

- One set of introductory exercises (20%)
- Two short papers on narrowly-focused questions (each 20%)
- Two non-cumulative in-class exams (each 20%)
- Class participation is strongly encouraged and will be taken into account in borderline cases.

WWW:

This course has a web site with my class notes, handouts and other helpful materials:
<http://www.yuribalashov.com/PHIL4300/phil4300.html>

HONOR CODE:

The statement of the UGA Academic Honesty Policy can be found at:
<https://ovpi.uga.edu/academic-honesty>

PRELIMINARY SCHEDULE, READINGS, AND ASSIGNMENTS (SUBJECT TO CHANGE):

Preliminaries and Machinery

- Jan 5, F: Course mechanics and overview. Readings: “Introductory Notes,” class website, pp. 1–8.
- Jan 8, M: Introduction. Readings: “Introductory Notes,” class website, pp. 1–14.
- Jan 10, W: No class. A make-up session will be arranged later.**
- Jan 12, F: No class. A make-up session will be arranged later.**
- Jan 15, M: Holiday: Martin Luther King Jr. Day – No Classes**
- Jan 17, W: Introduction. Readings: “Introductory Notes,” class website, pp. 1–32. Martinich, “Introduction,” M: 1–28.
- Jan 19, F: Introduction. Readings: “Introductory Notes,” class website, pp. 1–42. Martinich, “Introduction,” M: 1–28.
- Jan 22, M: Introduction. Readings: “Introductory Notes,” class website, pp. 1–51. Martinich, “Introduction,” M: 1–28.
- Jan 24, W: Introduction. Readings: “Introductory Notes,” class website, pp. 1–51. Martinich, “Introduction,” M: 1–28.
- Jan 26, F: Introduction. Readings: “Introductory Notes,” class website, pp. 1–51. Martinich, “Introduction,” M: 1–28.

Reference and Descriptions: Frege, Russell, Strawson, Donnellan, Kripke-1

Jan 29, M: Frege, "On Sense and Reference," M: 35–47.

Jan 31, W: Frege, "On Sense and Reference," M: 35–47.

Feb 2, F: Russell, "Descriptions," M: 114–120.

Feb 5, M: Strawson, "On Referring," M: 121–135.

Russell, "Mr. Strawson on Referring," M: 136–139.

Feb 7, W: **No class. A make-up session will be arranged later.**

Feb 9, F: **No class. A make-up session will be arranged later.**

Feb 12, M: Introductory Exercises due at the beginning of class (or by 1:00 pm via email as .doc(x) or .pdf attachment).

Feb 12, M: Donnellan, "Reference and Definite Descriptions," M: 140–152.

Feb 14, W: Kripke, "Speaker's Reference and Semantic Reference," M: 153–171.

Feb 16, F: Review and catch-up on of Reference and Descriptions.

Proper Names, Natural Kind Terms, and Semantic Externalism: Mill, Searle, Kripke-2, Putnam, Evans, TBA

Feb 19, M: Mill, "Of Names," M: 29–34.

Feb 21, W: Searle, "Proper Names," M: 48–52.

Feb 23, F: Kripke, "From *Naming and Necessity*," M: 53–65.

Feb 26, M: First Paper (on Frege, Russell, Strawson, Donnellan, and Kripke-1) due at 1:01 pm by email as .doc(x) attachment. This paper will consist of your answers to several narrowly focused questions, which will be posted online by Fri, Feb 16.

Feb 26, M: Putnam, "Meaning and Reference," M: 66–73.

Feb 28, W: Evans, "The Causal Theory of Names," M: 74–85.

Mar 2, F: Readings: TBA.

Mar 5, M: Review of Proper Names, Natural Kind Terms, and Semantic Externalism.

Mar 7, W: First in-class Exam (on Proper Names, Natural Kind Terms, and Semantic Externalism) - Part I.

Mar 9, F: First in-class Exam (on Proper Names, Natural Kind Terms, and Semantic Externalism) - Part II.

Mar 12 – 16: Spring Break

Propositional Attitude Reports and Situation Semantics: Frege-2, Quine, Kaplan, Barwise & Perry

- Mar 19, M: Frege, "The Thought," M: 362–374.
- Mar 21, W: Frege, "The Thought," M: 362–374.
*McKay and Nelson, "Propositional Attitude Reports," *The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*: <http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/prop-attitude-reports>
*Note: this reading is rather difficult and entirely optional, but gives an excellent overview of the entire issue.
- Mar 23, F: Quine, "Quantifiers and Propositional Attitudes," M: 176–182.
- Mar 26, M: Kaplan, "Quantifying In," M: 183–203.
- Mar 28, W: Kaplan, "Quantifying In," M: 183–203.
Barwise and Perry, "Semantic Innocence and Uncompromising Situations." TBP
- Mar 30, F: Barwise and Perry, "Semantic Innocence and Uncompromising Situations." TBP
- Apr 2, M: Review of Frege-2, Quine, Kaplan, and Barwise & Perry.
- Apr 4, W: **Second in-class Exam (on Frege-2, Quine, Kaplan, and Barwise & Perry) - Part I.**
- Apr 6, F: **Second in-class Exam (on Frege-2, Quine, Kaplan, and Barwise & Perry) - Part II.**

Kripke's Puzzle About Belief and Indexicals: Kripke-3, Crimmins & Perry, Sosa, Perry

- Apr 9, M: Kripke, "A Puzzle about Belief," M: 219–245.
- Apr 11, W: Kripke, "A Puzzle about Belief," M: 433–459.
Crimmins and Perry, "The Prince and the Phone Booth: Reporting Puzzling Beliefs," *The Journal of Philosophy* 86 (1989): 685–711. This article should be downloaded individually from www.jstor.org.
- Apr 13, F: Crimmins and Perry, "The Prince and the Phone Booth: Reporting Puzzling Beliefs," *The Journal of Philosophy* 86 (1989): 685–711. This article should be downloaded individually from www.jstor.org.
- Apr 16, M: Sosa, "The Import of the Puzzle about Belief," M: 246–261.
- Apr 18, W: Sosa, "The Import of the Puzzle about Belief," M: 246–261.
- Apr 20, F: Perry, "The Problem of the Essential Indexical," M: 537–545.
- Apr 23, M: Perry, "The Problem of the Essential Indexical," M: 537–545.
- Apr 25, W: Last day of class. Catch up on everything if needed.
- May 2, Wed: Second Paper (on Kripke-3, Crimmins & Perry, Sosa, and Perry) due by 3:00 pm by email as .doc attachment. This paper will consist of the answers to several narrowly focused questions which will be posted online Wed, Apr 25.**