

Welcome to Upper-Division Philosophy of Language!

- Instructor: Melissa Fusco, mf3095@columbia.edu
- Lecture: Tuesday/Thursday 1:10-2:25, location TBA
- Office Hours: TBA in 716 Philosophy Hall
- Books:
 - ★ *Philosophy of Language* (ed. Martinich) from Oxford University Press, fifth or sixth edition (available online.)
 - ★ *Naming and Necessity*, by Saul Kripke (available online.)

Grade Breakdown

- Paper: 30%, Final Exam: 30%, Four (short) topic exercises: 30%, Participation & OH attendance: 10%
- Final grades are subject to curvature.

Course website

We will use Courseworks for the email announcements and the distribution of readings and other relevant course material.

Class Policies

- **Assignments.** One-third of your grade in this class is determined by short topic exercises, which are short-answer and multiple choice worksheets I will distribute in class. There is one for each unit, and six units total. You are required to complete only four of these, and you can choose which. *Note: you must complete all required assignments to pass the class!*
- **Late Assignments.** Assignments will be graded down one-third of a letter grade (for example, from a B- to a C+) for every day they are late.
- **Electronic devices.** If I or one of the TAs notices you using electronic devices for non-course-related purposes, or if you are distracting other students, we will ask you not to bring them for the rest of the term.
- **Office Hours.** *Students are required to attend office hours at least twice per semester!* They are for any student who has questions about the course material, course assignments, or more general questions about the philosophical questions we will study. Please note that while I can look over paper outlines of written assignments in office hours, I cannot pre-read complete drafts of your work.

Academic Integrity

Just like you, I have taken a pledge to abide by Columbia's statement of policy regarding cheating and plagiarism. This means that I must report any instances of academic dishonesty that occur in our class. This is unpleasant for everyone involved! Unfortunately, many cases of academic dishonesty are due to ignorance, but cannot be excused for that reason. Be sure to educate yourself about proper citation practices and consult with me if there is any risk of improper citation. This is the official university pledge on academic dishonesty:

I affirm that I will not plagiarize, use unauthorized materials, or give or receive illegitimate help on assignments, papers, or examinations. I will also uphold equity and honesty in the evaluation of my work and the work of others. I do so to sustain a community built around this Code of Honor.

Accessibility

If you find yourself struggling with accessibility in the classroom and have not yet contact Disability Services (DS), I encourage you to do so. Registering with DS allows you to take advantage of services such as note-taking, transcription, extra time provided on assignments, access to interpreters, and more. DS can also liaise between you and your professors on your behalf. Students who think they may have specific accessibility requirements can contact Disability Services for a more confidential discussion at (212) 854-2388 (Voice/TTY) or by email at disability@columbia.edu. More information on the registration process is available online at www.health.columbia.edu/ods. Finally, if you are struggling psychologically during this course, I can connect you with campus services that are there to help—please ask.

Schedule

| Dates | Unit | Assignment |
|------------------|---|--|
| <i>Week 1-2</i> | <i>I: Speech and Meaning</i> | |
| Jan 21 | Austin, "Performative Utterances" (*) | |
| Jan 23 | Grice, "Meaning" (*) | Topic Exercise: Unit I (due Fri, 5pm) |
| <i>Week 3-6</i> | <i>II: Sense and Reference</i> | |
| Feb. 4 | Frege, "On Sense and Reference" (*) | |
| Feb. 6 | Russell, "On Denoting" (*) | |
| Feb. 11 | Strawson, "On Referring" (*) | Topic Exercise: Unit II (due Fri, 5pm) |
| Feb. 13,18 | Putnam, "Meaning and Reference" (*) | |
| <i>Week 7</i> | <i>III: Truth</i> | |
| Feb. 20, 25 | Tarski, "The Semantic Conception of Truth and the Foundations of Semantics" (*) | |
| <i>Week 8-11</i> | <i>IV: Naming and Necessity</i> | |
| March 3 | Kripke, Preface & Lecture I | Paper due! (Fri, 5pm) |
| March 5 | Kripke, Lecture I | |
| March 10 | Kripke, Lecture II | Topic Exercise: Units III, IV (due Fri, 5pm) |
| March 12 | Kripke, Lecture II | |
| <i>Week 10</i> | <i>~ Spring Break! ~</i> | |

Week 13 *V: Pragmatics*

March 31 Grice, "Logic and Conversation" (*)

Topic Exercise: Unit V (due Fri, 5pm)

Week 14 *VI: Applications*

April 14 Pylyshyn, "The Link Between Vision and the World"
(Courseworks)

April 21 Leslie, "Generics: Cognition and Acquisition"
(Courseworks)

Topic Exercise: Unit VI (due Fri, 5pm)

April 28 Review / Class Pick

May ? Final Exam: TBA