

**THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO  
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY**

**Graduate Course Outline  
Fall 2016**

**Ling 9451A: Philosophy and Linguistics  
(Foundations of Semantics and Pragmatics)**

**Instructor:** Robert J. Stainton

**Class Days and Hours:** Tu 4:30-5:30 in SH3355;

Th 12:30-2:30 in AHB 1B04

**Office:** Stevenson Hall 3126

**Phone:** ext. 82757

**Office Hours:** Tu 1:30-2:30

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

An introductory survey of pragmatics, drawing on those classic articles in philosophy of language which have served as its foundation. Topics will include: reference, truth conditions and possible worlds; assertions and other speech act; speakers' reference; conversational implicature; metaphor; indexicals and demonstratives; pragmatic determinants of what is said.

Authors will include: J.L. Austin, Kent Bach, Emma Borg, Robyn Carston, Donald Davidson, Gottlob Frege, H.P. Grice, David Kaplan, David Lewis, Bertrand Russell, John Searle, Dan Sperber & Deirdre Wilson.

**REQUIRED TEXT**

M. Ezcurdia and R.J. Stainton (eds.)(2013) *The Semantics-Pragmatics Boundary in Philosophy*.  
Peterborough, ON: Broadview

**OBJECTIVES**

The main objectives are to fine-tune students' skills as linguists and philosophers, and to introduce key concepts, positions and arguments in pragmatics. The focus this term will be on its philosophical foundations.

**REQUIREMENTS**

In-Class Participation: 15%

Seven "Briefing Notes": 35%

Mid-Term Test: 25%

Short Essay: 25%

*Essay:* The paper should be the sort of thing one could submit to a student conference – ideally about 12 double-spaced pages in length, definitely not more than 14 pages. It may be either more empirical or more philosophical, depending upon the interests and background of the student.

With the exception of students granted special accommodation, no electronic devices will be permitted during the test. Use of handheld devices and browsing of websites during class is very strongly discouraged, as it distracts both the user and his/her neighbours.

### Submission instructions

- All written work must be submitted, in anonymous form and in hard-copy, either in class or by means of the Philosophy drop box (on the first floor of Stevenson Hall, beside the elevator).
- It must also be submitted electronically to **Turnitin**: “All required papers are subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).”
- Late submissions will not be accepted without explicit prior permission of the instructor and/or proper medical documentation.

## DRAFT COURSE OUTLINE

### I. Varieties of Reference

Gottlob Frege, “On Sense and Reference”

Bertrand Russell, “Descriptions”

Peter Strawson, “On Referring”

Keith Donnellan, “Reference and Definite Descriptions”

Saul Kripke, “Speaker’s Reference and Semantic Reference”

David Kaplan, “Demonstratives” and “Afterthoughts”

### II. Assertion and Other Speech Acts

J.L. Austin, “Performative Utterances”

Robert Stalnaker, “Assertion”

David Lewis, “Scorekeeping in a Language Game”

### III. Pragmatics and What Is Said

H.P. Grice, “Logic and Conversation”

Dan Sperber and Deirdre Wilson, “Précis of *Relevance*”

John Perry, “Thought without Representation”

John Searle, “Literal Meaning”

Robyn Carston, “Implicature, Explicature and Truth-Theoretic Semantics”

Jason Stanley, “Context and Logical Form”

Emma Borg, “Minimalism versus Contextualism in Semantics”

#### IV. Metaphor

Donald Davidson, “What Metaphors Mean”

John Searle, “Metaphor”

Catherine Wearing, “Metaphor and What Is Said”

#### AUDIT

Students wishing to audit the course should consult with the instructor prior to or during the first week of classes.

The **Department of Philosophy Policies** which govern the conduct, standards, and expectations for student participation in Philosophy courses is available in the Undergraduate section of the Department of Philosophy website at <http://uwo.ca/philosophy/undergraduate/policies.html>. It is your responsibility to understand the policies set out by the Senate and the Department of Philosophy, and thus ignorance of these policies cannot be used as grounds of appeal. In particular, scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a **Scholastic Offence**, at the following Web site:

[http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_undergrad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf).

Students who are in **emotional/mental distress** should refer to Mental Health@Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

For additional information, see:

- Registrarial Services (<http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>)
- Student Support Services (<http://westernusc.ca/services/>)