

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

**Undergraduate Course Outline
2021-2022**

Philosophy 3270F: Philosophy and Linguistics

Term: Fall

Instructor: Robert J. Stainton

Class Days and Hours: Tu 3:30-4:30; Th 3:30-5:30

Office: Stevenson Hall 3126

Office Hours: Tu 2:00-3:00

E-mail: rstainto@uwo.ca

Web Site: <http://publish.uwo.ca/~rstainto/>

Phone: ext. 82757 [Not checked regularly]

COURSE DESCRIPTION

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

Authors will include: J.L. Austin, Emma Borg, Robyn Carston, Donald Davidson, Keith Donnellan, H. Paul Grice, David Kaplan, Saul Kripke, David Lewis, John Searle, Dan Sperber & Deirdre Wilson, Jason Stanley and Catherine Wearing.

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 semantics/pragmatics. The focus, as noted, will be on philosophical foundations.

To make these objectives achievable, students should have a background in at least one of philosophy or linguistics. It is not required that students have both, but it would be extremely difficult for a student with background in neither to master the skills and information in play.

REQUIREMENTS

In-Class Participation: 10%

Two In-Class Team Debates: 10%

Five “Briefing Notes”: 25%

Glossary Entries: 25%

Final Exam: 30%

- *Participation*: Because a main aim is inculcation of skills in philosophical and linguistic discussion, attendance and participation are mandatory. Students who regularly miss classes without justification will be requested to withdraw.
- *Debates*: Students will be divided into teams of about four or five, and each team will be assigned either the “pro” or “con” side of a resolution. There will be a group score which will then be modified based on peer reports of the individual student’s contribution to the group.
- *Briefing Notes*: At the outset of the relevant classes, students will hand in two to three pages of typewritten notes on the chapter assigned. 750-1000 words is appropriate. These “briefing notes” will explain the main aims of the text and the main means by which those aims are met. In the usual case, the main aim will be to establish a conclusion, and the main means will be via an argument, but there can be exceptions. Outlining these means/aims is to be sharply contrasted with describing, sub-section by sub-section, what the author covers in the text. Use of secondary sources is encouraged but not required.
- *Glossary Entries*: As the course progresses, students will be assigned as homework “glossary entries” on key linguistic and philosophical terms. An entry must be both complete and accurate. Complete means a definition, some kind of extended explication, and an example where possible. Each entry should be a few paragraphs long. A compendium of glossaries will be uploaded for grading at the mid-point and at the end of the class, but entries should be completed before the next class.
- *Final Exam*: The three-hour sit-down exam will cover overarching themes from the entire class and will be essay-based.

Submission instructions

- All written work must be submitted via the Assignment tab on OWL. Students should include their student number on the assignment but not their name.
- Late submissions will not be accepted without explicit prior permission of the instructor. There is no “late penalty”. In particular, because the glossary entries are homework, the compendium should not be uploaded late except under extraordinary circumstances.
- For detailed instructions on Self Reported Absences, please see below.

COURSE OUTLINE

I. Introduction

II. Varieties of Reference

Peter Strawson, “On Referring”

*Keith Donnellan, “Reference and Definite Descriptions”

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

David Kaplan, “Demonstratives”

III. Assertion and Other Speech Acts

*J.L. Austin, “Performative Utterances”
 Robert Stalnaker, “Assertion”
 David Lewis, “Scorekeeping in a Language Game”

IV. 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”
 Ray Elugardo and Robert Stainton, “Shorthand, Syntactic Ellipsis, and the Pragmatic Determinants of What Is Said”
 Emma Borg, “Minimalism versus Contextualism in Semantics”

V. Metaphor

Donald Davidson, “What Metaphors Mean”
 *Catherine Wearing, “Metaphor and What Is Said”

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

<u>Authors</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Briefing Note?</u>
P.F. Strawson	Reference as an action	No
K. Donnellan and S. Kripke	More on speakers’ reference	Yes, on Donnellan
D. Kaplan	Indexicals and demonstratives	No
J.L Austin	Performatives	Yes
R. Stalnaker and D. Lewis	Assertion and “update semantics”	No
H.P. Grice	Conversational Implicatures	Yes
D. Sperber and D. Wilson	Pragmatics meets cognitive science	No
J. Perry and J. Searle	Pragmatic determinants of literal content	Yes, on Perry
R. Carston	Pragmatic determinants of literal content meets cognitive science	Yes
J. Stanley	Against pragmatic determinants of literal truth conditions	No
R. Elugardo & R. Stainton and E. Borg	More on “what is said”	No
D. Davidson and C. Wearing	Metaphor	No

AUDIT

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

DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY POLICIES

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.

ACCOMMODATION

Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments worth 10% or more of their final grade must apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department. Documentation shall be submitted, as soon as possible, to the Office of the Dean of the student's Faculty of registration, together with a request for relief specifying the nature of the accommodation being requested.

The UWO Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness and further information regarding this policy can be found at

http://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf.

SELF-REPORTED ABSENCE FORM

Students who experience i) something unexpected, which is ii) either an illness or injury (e.g., flu, pneumonia, temporary mental health crisis) or an extenuating circumstance (e.g., death of a close family member or friend); iii) of 48 hours or less; such that iv) it is sufficiently severe to temporarily render them unable to meet academic requirements (e.g., attending lectures or labs, writing tests or midterm exams, completing and submitting assignments, participating in presentations) should self-declare using the online Self-Reported Absence portal.

This option should only be used in situations where the student expects to resume academic responsibilities within the 48 hour time span. For longstanding medical issues or extensions beyond 48 hours students should seek assistance from their Academic Counsellor.

Before using an SRA, students are urged to review the following conditions in place for self-reporting of medical or extenuating circumstances:

http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#SubHeading_322

https://www.registrar.uwo.ca/academics/academic_considerations/self_reported_absences_faqs.html

Note in particular that the System-Reported Absence system was not intended to alter the situations in which students may request academic consideration. Those remain (i)-(iv) above. The change pertains only to the manner in which students may provide evidence of those situation: they may now do so via an online honour system, as opposed to submitting a letter from a medical professional, funeral director, etc.

For extensions not resulting from (i)-(iv) so that it would be inappropriate to use an SRA,

students should instead contact the instructor prior to the deadline to make arrangements. A request of those sort would be appropriate, for instance, when a student has multiple assignments due on the same date or other finds themself unusually overwhelmed.

EVALUATION OF ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE

At least three days prior to the deadline for withdrawal from a course without academic penalty, students will receive assessment of work accounting for at least 15% of their final grade. For 3000- or 4000-level courses in which such a graded assessment is impracticable, the instructor(s) must obtain an exemption from this policy from the Dean and this exemption must be noted on the corresponding course syllabus. In rare instances and at the Dean's discretion, other courses could receive a similar exemption, which also must be noted in the course syllabus.

COURSE ASSIGNMENT

The last day of scheduled classes in any course will be the last day on which course assignments will be accepted for credit in a course. Instructors will be required to return assignments to students as promptly as possible with reasonable explanations of the instructor's assessment of the assignment.

ACADEMIC OFFENCES

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

PLAGIARISM CHECKING

All required papers may be 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>.

SUPPORT SERVICES

Registrarial Services <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>

Student Support Services <https://student.uwo.ca/psp/heprdweb/?cmd=login>

Services provided by the USC <http://westernusc.ca/services/>

Student Development Centre <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>

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. Immediate help in the event of a crisis can be had by phoning 519.661.3030 (during class hours) or 519.433.2023 after class hours and on weekends.