PHIL 154: Philosophy of Language TR 9:00-10:15 Douglass Hall 110

When you come tomorrow, bring my football boots. Also, if humanly
possible, Irish water spaniel. Urgent. Regards. Tuppy."What do you make of that, Jeeves?""As I interpret the document, sir, Mr. Glossop wishes you, when you come
tomorrow, to bring his football boots. Also, if humanly possible, an Irish water spaniel.
He hints that the matter is urgent, and sends his regards."
"Yes, that's how I read it too...."
The Ordeal of Young Tuppy, P. G. WodehouseInstructor:Thomas F. Pyne

Office Hours: M 10:00-11:00; T 12:00-1:00; R 3:00-4:00; Other times by appointment

Office Location:	Mendocino 3016.
Phone:	(Office) 916-278-7288 (Department) 916-278-6424
Email:	pynetf@csus.edu
Website:	http://www.csus.edu/indiv/p/pynetf/
SacCT:	www.csus.edu/sacct/
Required Text:	A.P. Martinich and David Sosa, <i>The Philosophy of Language</i> , 6 th Edition. (Oxford, 2013).

Course Description

Study of philosophical issues concerning language: theories of the nature of linguistic meaning, in particular those involving the concepts of sense, reference, truth conditions, intention, convention, speech act, and force.

Topics include the relation between meaning and reference to objects, and between meaning and mental processes. Emphasis on contemporary views, including views on the promise of a theory of language to shed light on fundamental philosophical problems in metaphysics and the philosophy of mind.

Course Objectives

This course is a systematic introduction to current theories of linguistic meaning with a view to deciding which (if any) should be adopted.

Topics will include:

- syntax, semantics, and pragmatics;
- candidates for the fundamental concept of a theory of meaning: mental representation, sense, denotation, truth, force, intention, convention, and cause;
- the scope of a theory of linguistic meaning and its relation to other disciplines: epistemology, metaphysics, cognitive psychology, and sociolinguistics.

The course will prepare students to adopt a reasoned and informed position on requirements for a fundamental theory of linguistic meaning.

Course Delivery Method – Hybrid

While PHIL 154 will be in most ways a standard lecture/discussion class, it will be 'web-assisted.' That is, we will be using some features of the SacCT course management system.

SacCT is a program designed for on-line college courses. Among other things, it serves as a location for course material, lecture notes, tests, papers, and discussions.

I will make important course content available online, including lecture notes and other supplementary material.

You will be taking quizzes and exams, participating in discussions, and submitting papers through SacCT. In addition, you may communicate with me, as well as with other students in the class, through the SacCT Mail facility.

Access the Course

Use your Saclink account to log into the course from the <u>SacCT Login page</u> (https://online.csus.edu).

If you do not have a Saclink account yet, please refer to the <u>Setting Up a Saclink Account</u> webpage (http://www.csus.edu/saclink/settingUp.stm) to create a saclink account online.

To get started using a SacCT course please visit the <u>Student Resources</u> webpage (http://www.csus.edu/webct/student/) where you can access Online Tutorials, Frequently Asked Questions, and other help resources.

Communications

The course will use the communication tools built into SacCT:

- Announcements: It's a good idea to check for announcements from time to time during the semester
- Mail: You may send me (or classmates) a message via the 'Mail' function. I will respond promptly. (I can't vouch for the classmates.)
- Discussions: You will be expected to participate in discussions, whether in class or through the 'Discussions' function in SacCT.

- Calendar: Exams and due dates for papers will all appear in the Calendar.

Technical Requirements

To access a course on SacCT you will need access to the Internet and an internet browser (Internet Explorer, Firefox, Safari). To ensure that you are using a supported browser and have required plug-ins please run the Check Browser from your SacCT course. Refer to the <u>SacCT Browser Tune-up</u> page for instructions.

For help or to report a problem with SacCT you can:

- Visit the <u>Student SacCT FAQ's webpage</u>
- Submit a <u>SacCT Problem Form</u>
- Contact the University Help Desk at (916) 278-7337

Work for the Course

1. Quizzes on Reading Assignments (10%)

You will be responsible for the readings assigned for a particular class day.

While you will be responsible for the whole reading, I may indicate in the 'Schedule' (below) that you should pay particular attention to some part of it.

As a result, it may happen that other parts will not be treated in class. You will be responsible for them anyway, and I will respond to questions regarding them.

The quiz for a given reading assignment must be taken by the beginning of the class period for which it is assigned.

I will open the window for the reading assignment a week in advance; the window will close at class time.

2. Journal Entries (5% each)

These will be reflection on questions arising in the readings, due at assigned times. See Journal Entries folder.

- 3. Exam on Concepts and Methods in Philosophy of Language (5%)
- 4. Midterm Exam (5%) The midterm will be combination of multiple-choice, fill-in, true/false questions, plus some essay questions. The questions will be on the readings, lectures, and discussions up to that point.
- 5. Final Exam (5%) Same as the midterm. The final will cover all the readings, lectures, and discussions since the midterm.
- 6. First Analytic Essay (4-6 pages) (10%)"On Rules and Private Language," Saul Kripke
- Second Analytic Essay (4-6 pages) 10%)
 "Immaterial Aspects of Thought," James Ross

Course Syllabus

8. Discussion Contributions (5%)

You will be expected to make regular contributions to discussion, either in the class period itself or in the online 'Discussion' conducted in SacCT.

Assignment Submission Instructions

Journal Entries

Journal entries will be submitted in SacCT.

- Open the main page for PHIL 154;
- On the course menu select 'Journal Entries';
- Open the correct journal, read the instructions *carefully* (you will be graded on the completeness with which you answer everything being asked);
- Click 'Create Journal Entry';
- Give your journal entry a title (required);
- You can write your journal entry directly into the 'Entry Message' box, or you may compose your journal entry elsewhere and copy it into the box. Please don't attach your journal entry.
- Click on 'Post Entry' in the lower right-hand corner. The little green 'Success' banner should appear.
- Late journal entries will be penalized .5 point for every day late.

Analytical Essays

Analytical essays will be submitted in SacCT.

In writing the essay, follow the instructions for analytical essay found in the Philosophy Department website. Look under "Guidance" for "How to Write an Analytical Essay." Here's the URL: http://www.csus.edu/phil/Guidance/How%20to%20Write%20an%20Analysis.htm

You will find another document there that will be helpful, since it gives you some hints as to what we look for. It's called "Guidelines for Writing Philosophy Papers": http://www.csus.edu/phil/Guidance/WritingGuidelines.html

In addition, look carefully at the rubric by which the essays will be graded. The rubric can be found on the page for each writing assignment. Click on the box "View Rubric." Keep it in mind as you write, since that forms the standards by which I will be grading them.

To submit an essay in SacCT:

- Enter SacCT at http://csus.edu/sacct/
- Open the main page for PHIL 154;
- On the Course Menu select "Analytical Essays";
- Open the correct essay folder;

- Attach your paper as an *editable* file that will open in Microsoft Word (*not* a .pdf or .htm file); if you're unsure, attach it as a 'text' (.txt) or 'rich text' (.rtf); those options are available in all word-processing programs.
- A green "success" message should appear: "This assignment is complete. Review the submission history." *It's not submitted until you see that message.*
- Late papers will be lowered a grade increment for every day past the due date. I leave the window open for submitting papers for five days past the date.

Discussions

Philosophy involves discussion and argument. It's the best way to explore philosophical questions, the best way to learn how to philosophize. So I will expect you to participate in the discussions. You will either receive full credit for participation (5%) or no credit, depending on how seriously you take your responsibility to make contributions. If I notice that you are not participating, I will let you know that I expect more.

To participate in an online discussion:

- Enter SacCT;
- Open 'Discussions' (under 'Course Tools' on the left margin');
- Click on one of the topics; you will be able to read the other contributions;
- You can contribute to the discussion by clicking 'Create Message'.

Reading Quizzes

There will be a reading quiz on every assignment. A reading quiz will consist of five to ten multiplechoice questions designed so that a careful reader should be able to answer them. The quiz will 'open' a week before it is due; it will 'close' at the beginning of the first class period in which the reading will be discussed.

To take a reading quiz in SacCT:

Enter SacCT at https://online.csus.edu;

- Open the main page for PHIL 154;
- Open 'Assessments' (under 'Course Tools' on the left margin of the main page);
- Answer the questions (make sure you 'submit' each question as well as the entire exam).

You will have only one chance to take the quiz, so make sure to 'save' each answer and check your answers before submitting.

I will not reset an untaken quiz, or one with unsaved answers. It's your responsibility to get it right.

Grading

Reading Quizzes

Reading quizzes will receive a grade of 2 (full credit), 1 (inadequate comprehension), or 0 (not taken). An average of 1.7 or above will receive full credit for the this component of the final grade. Lower scores will be prorated.

Analytical Essays: Each essay will receive a numerical grade out of 20. The basis for the grade rubric will be found in the page for the essay in SacCT.

Essay Score	Grade Equivalent
20-17.5	А
17.49-14.5	В
14.49-11.5	С
11.49-9.0	D
8.9-	F

Journal Entries: Journal entries will be graded 5 - 0. Your average on the journals will be computed into the final grade thus:

Average	Scaled Score
5.0-4.5	100
4.49-4.0	93
3.99-3.5	91
3.49-3.0	89
2.99-2.5	81
2.49-2.0	79
1.99-1.5	71
1.49-1.0	69
.99-	61

Discussion

Discussion participation will receive either complete credit or none. Twice during the semester I will let you know how you are doing, to warn you if I deem your discussion contribution inadequate.

Grading Criteria

Scaled	Letter Equivalent
Score	

100-94	А
93-92	A-
91-90	B+
89-84	В
83-82	B-
81-80	C+
79-74	С
73-72	C-
71-70	D+
69-64	D
63-62	D-
61-	F

Viewing Grades in SacCT

For reading quizzes you will be able to see your score as soon as you have submitted your quiz. For exams, and papers I will post the grades as soon as I have finished grading them. You can see your grades during the semester by going to 'MyGrades' in SacCT.

Course Policies

Attendance

I expect attendance at every class meeting. If for some excellent reason you cannot make class, let me know – preferably in advance. If this is impossible, let me know by 5:00 on the day you miss, preferably by an e-mail message within SacCT. I will lower you a grade increment for every absence in which you fail to contact me the same day.

Class meetings will begin at 9:00 AM with a roll call. Be on time. Anticipate. Excuses don't cut it: I will treat a pattern of late arrival as an unexcused absence.

I expect attention to the material during class periods. If there is a class discussion, I will serve as moderator.

If you wish to ask a question, answer a question, or make a contribution to the class, please ask to be recognized. There is no excuse for conducting a private discussion during class time. I will treat a pattern of talking in class as an unexcused absence.

Make-Up Exams

Since you may take exams at your convenience, there will be no make-up exams. *Period.* The opening and closing dates and times for exams will be listed in the calendar.

Late Work

For journal entries I will lower the grade .5 for every day past the due date.

For analytical essays I will leave the assignment window open for five days after the due date. The grade will be lowered a grade increment for every day it's late.

University Policies

Academic Honesty

Students are expected to be familiar with the University's Academic Honesty, Policy & Procedures. The policy on Academic Honesty and other information regarding student conduct can be accessed from the <u>University Policy Manual</u> (http://www.csus.edu/umanual/index.htm).

The University Library has a helpful treatment of plagiarism at http://library.csus.edu/content2.asp?pageID=353.

The University has very helpful information on plagiarism at the Library's Plagiarism Website.

Reasonable Accommodation Policy

If you have a disability and require accommodations, you need to provide disability documentation to Services for Students with Disabilities (SSWD). For more information please visit the <u>SSWD</u> website (http://www.csus.edu/sswd/). They are located in Lassen Hall 1008 and can be contacted by phone at (916) 278-6955 (Voice) (916) 278-7239 (TDD only) or via email at <u>sswd@csus.edu</u>.

Please discuss your accommodation needs with me after class or during my office hours early in the semester.

A tendency toward procrastination is not a recognized disability.

University Resources

The CSUS Writing Center

The Writing Center provides encouraging, focused, and non-judgmental one-to-one tutorials in writing. Their tutors can help with writing at all points in the process, from initial planning and organizing through developing and revising a paper. You can bring the assignment to them for help.

Sac State Library

The Sac State Library's webpage is <u>http://library.csus.edu</u>. To find a book or periodical, click on "Eureka: Library Catalogue" under "Resources and Collections or go directly to <u>http://eureka.lib.csus.edu/</u> For a largely undergraduate institution, the Sac State library's holdings and resources in philosophy are pretty good. I particularly recommend Sac State librarian Lisa Roberts' website "Philosophy: Resources." Two ways to find it: through "Research Guides" under "Resources and Collections", or go directly to <u>http://library.csus.edu/guides/robertsl/philoguide.htm</u>

Student Computing Labs

To access SacCT from campus, or use any of the other campus online resources, you can use the IRT managed student computer labs on campus. See <u>University Labs website</u>, that is, <u>http://www.csus.edu/uccs/labs/generalinfo/about.stm</u> for information about locations, hours, and resources available.

SacCT

SacCT is the course management system used on the Sac State campus for web-assisted courses. To access a course on SacCT, you must login from the <u>SacCT Login Page</u> (https://online.csus.edu).

To learn more about SacCT visit the <u>Student Resources</u> webpage (http://www.csus.edu/WebCT/student/) where you can view online Tutorials, FAQ's and other help resources.

Human language is like a cracked kettle on which we beat out tunes for bears to dance to, when all the time we are longing to move the stars to pity.

--Flaubert, Madame Bovary

Course Schedule

Introduction

Everything starts somewhere, though many physicists disagree. But people have always been dimly aware of the problem with the start of things. They wonder how the snowplough driver gets to work, or how the makers of dictionaries look up the spelling of words.

-- Terry Pratchett, Hogfather

Week	Торіс	Readings	Due Dates
Week 1 T 9/2	T: Introduction: Philosophical Questions about Language The 'Standard View' of Meaning	T: [Essay 42: "Of Words," John Locke (656-668)]	T:

Part I: The 'Standard View' (and Its Problems)

The truth may be out there, but lies are inside your head.

-- Terry Pratchett, Hogfather

R 9/4	R: The 'Standard View' (Cont.)	R: [Essay 42: "Of Words," John Locke (656-668)]	R: Reading Quiz 1: Locke, "Of Words"
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Part II: Language as a System

It became apparent that one reason why the Ice Giants were known as the Ice Giants was because they were giants.

The other was that they were made of ice.

-- Terry Pratchett, Sourcery

Week 2 T 9/9	T: Compositionality: Language as a System (Syntax)	T: Martinich, "Introduction," 2- 18	T: Reading Quiz 2: Martinich, "Introduction," 2-18
R 9/11	R: Compositionality: Language as a System (Semantics and Pragmatics)	R: Martinich, "Introduction," 18-23	R: Reading Quiz 3: "Introduction," 18- 23

- "No - "Tł	ne Old (Masculine) River." fords have sex in foreign parts?"		
Week 3	Terry Pratchett, <i>Wit</i>	ches Abroad	1
T 9/16	T: "Dummish"	T: [Online 'Handout']	т:
R 9/18	R: Issues of Linguistic Relativity: the Sapir-Whorf Hypothesis, "Mars and Venus," Ebonics, etc	R: Martinich, "Introduction," 23- 26	R: Window oper (10:15 AM) for Exam on Concer and Methods in Philosophy of
	Alternatives to the Standa A)s a result of these two magnifi	· · · · ·	
"(. gaine		cent achievements, Frege's and	`Sense
"…(A)s a result of these two magnified a deep insight into the structure	cent achievements, Frege's and	'Sense Tarski's, we have T: Reading Quiz 4
"(gaine Week 4	A)s a result of these two magnified a deep insight into the structureDonald Davidson	cent achievements, Frege's and re of our mother tongues." T: [Essay 2: "On Sense and Reference," Gottlob Frege (35-	'Sense Tarski's, we have T: Reading Quiz 4 Frege, "Sense and

-- Terry Pratchett, Maskerade

Week 5 T 9/30	T: Russell: Semantics Makes No 'Sense'	T: [Essay 8: "On Denoting," Bertrand Russell (105-113)]	T: Reading Quiz 5: Russell, "On Denoting" (All) Journal Entry on Frege due 11:30 PM.
R 10/2	R: How a One-Level Semantics Operates: Reference Shift as a Syntactical Phenomenon; Russell's own concept of reference)	R: [Essay 8: "On Denoting," Bertrand Russell (105-113); Essay 9: "Descriptions," Bertrand Russell (114-120)]	R: Reading Quiz 6: Russell, "Descriptions"
Truth expla corre wom belie Indec for h	ternatives to the Standard is female, since truth is beauty in the saying that a lie could run action, <i>her</i> boots on, since she we an in a position to choose would f. ed, as a goddess she would have ome truths, hobnail boots for un bly some kind of slipper for self Terry Pratchett, Unit	rather than handsomeness. This a around the world before Truth ould have to choose which pair have just one pair of boots bein lots of shoes, and thus many ch pleasant truths, simple clogs for f-evident truth.	s would certainly has got its, – the idea any ng beyond rational oices: comfy shoes
Week 6 T 10/7	T: A Theory of Meaning is a theory of Truth	T: [Essay 30: "Truth and Meaning," Donald Davidson (416-427)]	T: Reading Quiz 7: Davidson, "Truth and Meaning" Journal Entry on Russell due 11:30 PM
R 10/9	R: The Davidsonian Program (cont.)	R: Essay 30: "Truth and Meaning," Donald Davidson (416-427)]	R:
Aski	Alternatives to the Standar ng someone to repeat a phrase ye edingly angry about was around Terry Pratchett, <i>Witches Ab</i>	ou'd not only heard very clearly Defcon II in the lexicon of squa	but were also
Week 7 T 10/14	T: 'Non-Natural' Meaning – Gricean Intentions	T: [Essay 21: "Meaning," H.P. Grice (285-290)]	T: Reading Quiz 8: Grice, "Meaning" Journal Entry on Davidson due 11:30 PM

			Exam 1 Window
R 10/30	R: The 'Twin-Earth' Argument for Semantic Externalism	R: [Essay 5: "Meaning and Reference," Hilary Putnam (66- 73)]	R: Reading Quiz 13: Putnam, "Meaning and Reference" Journal Entry on Conventions due 11:30 PM
Externalis - "Th - "W		laborated: Reference and	l Semantic
T 10/28	T: Another Theory on How Conventions Figure In	T: [Essay 46: "Languages and Language," David Lewis (682- 700)]	T: Reading Quiz 12: Lewis, "Languages and Language"
R 10/23 Week 9	R: 'Kripkenstein' and His Amazing Sceptical Paradox (With Its Sceptical Solution)	R: [Essay 38: From "On Rules and Private Language," Saul Kripke (546-558)]	R: Reading Quiz 11: Kripke, "On Rules and Private Language"
Week 8 T 10/21	T: The "Private Language Argument" and the Bug in the Box	T: [Wittgenstein, selections from <i>Philosophical</i> <i>Investigations</i>]	T: Reading Quiz 10: Wittgenstein, <i>Philosphical</i> <i>Investigations</i> (selections) Journal Entry on Grice due 11:30 PM
It wa perfe decer	ctly innocent words were mugge		meaning and
Like	an apprentice staring at the wor	ard View (5): Linguistic C k of a master, he read Reacher C	
R 10/16	R: Grice's Own Theory on How Conventions Figure In	R: [Essay 24: "Logic and Conversation" (312-322)]	R: Reading Quiz 9: Grice, "Logic and Conversation"

			opens 10:15 AM	
Week 10 T 11/4	T: The `Twin-Earth' Argument (cont.)	T: [Essay 5: "Meaning and Reference," Hilary Putnam (66- 73)]	⊤: First Analytical Essay due 11:30 PM	
R 11/6	R: 'Denotation' vs <i>Reference</i>	R: [Essay 12: "Reference and Definite Descriptions, Keith Donnellan (140-152)]	R: Reading Quiz 14: Donellan, "Refe- rence and Definite Descriptions"	
			Exam 1 Window Closes 9:00 AM	
Week 11 T 11/11	T: Veterans Day Holiday	т:	Т:	
R 11/13	R: Names as Paradigms of Reference	R: [Essay 4: From "Naming and Necessity," Saul Kripke (53- 65)]	R: Reading Quiz 15: Kripke, "Naming and Necessity" Journal Entry on Putnam due 11:30 PM	
Week 12 T 11/18	T: 'Rigid Designation' (Kripke, cont.)	T: [Essay 4: "Naming and Necessity," Saul Kripke (53-65)]	T:	
R 11/20	R: Revisions to Kripke's Theory	R: [Essay 23: "The Causal Theory of Names," Gareth Evans (314-325)]	R: Reading Quiz 16: Evans, "The Causal Theory of Names	
Week 13 T 11/25	T: Evans's 'Information' Theory of Reference	T: [Essay 6: "The Causal Theory of Names," Gareth Evans (74-85)]	⊤: Journal Entry on Kripke due 11:30 PM	
R 11/27	R: Thanksgiving Holiday	R:	R:	
Part IX: Pragmatics – Introduction Using a metaphor in front of a man as unimaginative as Ridcully was like a red flag to a bu was like putting something very annoying in front of someone who was annoyed by it. Terry Pratchett, Lords and Ladies				
Week 14 T 12/2	T: Russellian Reference Renewed	T: [Essay 36: "Demonstratives," David Kaplan (502-534)]	T: Reading Quiz 17: Kaplan, "Dthat" Journal Entry on Evans due 11:30 PM	
Part XI: Intentionality – A Tentative Conclusion This is very similar to the suggestion put forward by the Quirmian philosopher Ventre,				

who said, "Possibly the gods exist, and possibly they do not. So why not believe in them in any case? If it's all true you'll go to a lovely place when you die, and if it isn't then you've lost nothing, right?"

When he died he woke up in a circle of gods holding nasty-looking sticks and one of them said, "We're going to show you what we think of Mr. Clever Dick in these parts..." -- Terry Pratchett, *Hogfather*

R 12/4	R: Representation, Reference, and 'Aboutness'	R: ["Misrepresentation," Fred Dretske]	R: Reading Quiz 19: Dretske, "Misrepre- sentation"
Week 15 T 12/9	T: 'Aboutness' (cont.)	T: ["Misrepresentation," Fred Dretske]	⊤: Journal Entry on Kaplan due 11:30
R 12/11	R: The Prospects for Naturalizing Meaning	R:	R: Final Exam Window Opens 10:15 AM
Finals Week T 12/16	T:	Т:	T: Journal Entry on Dretske due 11:30 PM
R 12/18	R:	R:	R: Analytical Essay on Ross, "Immaterial Aspects of Thought" due Thursday, December 18, 11:30 pm
			Final Exam Window Closes 12:15 PM

The descriptions and due dates are subject to change at the discretion of the Instructor.

Have a good semester.