

Philosophy of Language
Dr Katie Monk
University of Edinburgh 2019

Contact

Dr Katie Monk

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Office: TBD

Office Hours: Tuesdays 3 – 5

If you have anything you would like to talk about, the best thing to do is come to my office hours. You don't need an appointment.

Logistics

Lectures start in Week One. Seminars run from Week Two, and the topic is the same as the previous week's lecture. Reading should be *before the seminar* (that is to say, the reading for week 1's lecture should be done in advance of the seminar in week 2).

During the lecture you will work in groups to come up with questions to discuss during the seminar. If you have one, it would be helpful to *bring your laptop, smart phone, ipad* and so on. If you don't have one – don't worry. You only need one per small group. If there are any problems with this, please come see me and have a chat.

Trigger Warnings

There aren't trigger warnings on the readings, because I can't know what might be particularly difficult to talk about for each of you, depending as it does upon your individual experiences. If you have questions or concerns about a particular topic, or if there is something that would be particularly upsetting for you to talk or read about, please let me know and I will do my best to give advance warnings. If there is an issue that would be so upsetting to talk about that you feel you can't attend a particular session please let me know as soon as you can.

Accessibility

I am committed to making class as accessible as possible. If there is a particular accommodation that you need, please let me know.

Assessment

Assessment is via

*Mid-term essay of 1,500 due 24th October (draft due 22nd Oct for peer review). Worth 40%.

*End-of-semester essay 2, 500 due 12th December. Worth 60%.

You are required to bring a printed draft of your mid term essay to the lecture on the 22nd October, where we will spend time in class working on your draft.

Titles will be released on Learn.

Schedule

Week One: Introduction, Sense and Reference

Lecture = 17th Sep

Covering:

- What is philosophy of language
- What is sense? Is it different to reference?
- Salva veritate and cognitive value



Essential Reading for the seminar (runs a week later)

Gottlob Frege, "On Sense and Reference"

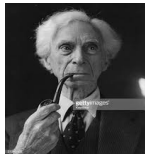
<https://philpapers.org/rec/FREOSA-2>

Week Two: Acquaintance and Description

Lecture = 24th Sep

Covering:

- Propositions as the referents of sentences
- The problem of complex singular terms
- The theory of descriptions



Essential Reading for the seminar (runs a week later)

Bertrand Russell, "Knowledge by Acquaintance and Knowledge by Description"

<https://philpapers.org/rec/RUSKBA-4>

Week Three: Theories of reference

Lecture = 1st October

Covering:

- Theories of reference fixing: Kripke and Evans
- Attributive and referential uses of descriptions



Essential Reading for the seminar (runs a week later)

Saul Kripke, "Speaker's Reference and Semantic Reference"

<https://philpapers.org/rec/KRISRA-2>

Week Four: Minimal Content

Lecture = 8th October

Covering:

- Shared content accounts
- Speech act accounts
- Modular accounts



Essential Reading for the seminar (runs a week later)
Emma Borg, *Minimal Semantics*, Chapter 2
<https://philpapers.org/rec/BORMS>

Week Five: Analytic/Synthetic Distinction

Lecture = 15th October

Covering:

- What the analytic/synthetic distinction is
- Arguments for and against



Essential Reading for the seminar (runs a week later)
Gillian Russell, "The Analytic/Synthetic Distinction"
<https://philpapers.org/rec/RUSTAD>

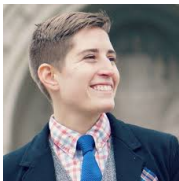
Week Six: Harms of Speech and Peer Review Session

Lecture = 22nd Oct

Remember to bring a printed draft of your mid term to this lecture!

Covering

- Harms of speaking
- Rules which should govern our speech



Essential Reading for the seminar (runs a week later)
Robin Demaroff and Daniel Wodack
"He/She/They/Ze"
<https://philpapers.org/rec/DEMH-3>

Week Seven: Singular and Descriptive Thought

Lecture = 29th Oct

Covering:

- Singular -v- descriptive distinction
- Acquaintance theories
- Other theories – Jeshion and Sawyer



Essential Reading for the seminar (runs a week later)
Robin Jeshion, Singular thought: acquaintance, semantic instrumentalism,
and cognitivism
<https://philpapers.org/rec/JESSTA>

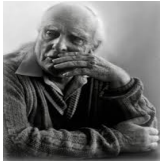
Week Eight: Pragmatics

Lecture = 5th Nov

Covering

- Semantic/pragmatic distinction
- Implicature
- Gricean Rules

Essential Reading for the seminar (runs a week later)



H. Paul Grice

“Meaning”

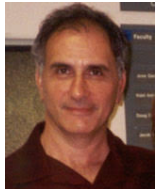
<https://philpapers.org/rec/GRIM>

Week Nine: Slurs

Lecture = 12th Nov

Covering

- Communication and purpose
- Tone and meaning
- What is a slur



Essential Reading for the seminar (runs a week later)

Luvell Anderson & Ernie Lepore, “Slurring Words”

<https://philpapers.org/rec/ANDSW>

Week Ten: Silencing

Lecture = 19th Nov

Covering

- Uptake
- Linguistic exchange
- Silencing



Essential Reading for the seminar (runs a week later)

Kristie Dotson, “Tracking Epistemic Violence, Tracking Practices of Silencing”

<https://philpapers.org/rec/DOTTEV>

Week Eleven: Lying, Misleading and Asserting

Lecture = 26th Nov

Covering:

- What is lying?
- Misleading
- What is assertion?



Essential Reading

Jennifer Saul, *Lying, Misleading and What is Said*, Chapters 2 and 3

<https://philpapers.org/rec/SAULMA-3>

Further Reading

Week One: Introduction, Sense and Reference

- Gideon Makin, "Frege's Distinction Between Sense and Reference" (<https://philpapers.org/rec/MAKFDB>)
- Zalta, Edward, SEP entry on "Gottlob Frege" <http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/frege/>
- Anthony Kenny, *Frege*, <https://philpapers.org/rec/KENF-3>

Week Two: Acquaintance and Description

- Evans, *Varieties of Reference*. Chapters 4 and 11. (<https://philpapers.org/rec/EVATVO>)
- Goodman, Rachel, "Do Acquaintance Theorists Have an Attitude Problem?" (<https://philpapers.org/rec/GOODAT-4>)

Week Three: Theories of reference

- Keith Donnellan, "Proper names and identifying descriptions" (<https://philpapers.org/rec/DONPNA>)
- Evans, *The Causal Theory of Names* (<https://philpapers.org/rec/EVATCT-2>)

Week Four: Minimal Content

- Jennifer Saul, *Lying, Misleading and What is Said* (<https://philpapers.org/rec/SAULMA-3>), Chapters 2 and 3
- Emma Borg, "Explanatory roles for minimal content" (<https://philpapers.org/rec/BORERF>)

Week Five: Analytic/Synthetic Distinction

- W.V. Quine, *Two Dogma's Of Empiricism* (<https://philpapers.org/rec/QUITDO-3>)
- P.A. Boghossian, *Analyticity Reconsidered* (<https://philpapers.org/rec/BOGAR>)

Week Six: Harms of Speech

- Judith Butler, *Excitable Speech* (<https://philpapers.org/rec/BUTESA-3>)
- John Stewart Mill, *On Liberty*, (<https://philpapers.org/rec/MILOL-8>)

Week Seven: Singular/Descriptive Thought

- Sarah Sawyer, *Cognitivism: A New Theory of Singular Thought?* (<https://philpapers.org/rec/SAWCAN>)
- Goodman, Rachel, "On the supposed connection between proper names and singular thought" (<https://philpapers.org/rec/GOOOTS-2>)

Week Eight: Pragmatics

- Ken Bach, Conversational Implicature, (<https://philpapers.org/rec/BACCI>)
- Michael Blome-Tillmann Conversational Implicatures (<https://philpapers.org/rec/BLOCI-2>)
- Grice, Studies In The Way Of Words (<https://philpapers.org/rec/GRISIT>)

Week Nine: Slurs

- Chistopher Hom, “The Semantics of Racial Epithets” (<https://philpapers.org/rec/HOMTSO>)
- Renée Jorgensen Bolinger, “The Pragmatics of Slurs”,(<https://philpapers.org/rec/BOLTPO-9>)
- Elizabeth Camp, “Slurring Perspectives” (<https://philpapers.org/rec/CAMSP>)

Week Ten: Silencing

- Rae Langton, Speech Acts and Unspeakable Acts (<https://philpapers.org/rec/LANSAA>)
- Miranda Fricker, Epistemic Injustice: Power and The Ethics of Knowing (<https://philpapers.org/rec/FRIEIP>)

Week Eleven: Lying, Misleading and Asserting

- Andreas Stokke, Lying and Asserting (<https://philpapers.org/rec/STOLAA>)
- Don Fallis, What Is Lying? (<https://philpapers.org/rec/FALWIL>)