PHIL4313
Philosophy of Language 語言哲學

Course Outline

Time：W 9:30am-12:15pm   Location：TBA

Course overview (as shown on CUSIS)

This course investigates the basic concepts and working principles in the philosophy of language. It includes, among other topics, theory of definition, articulation and meaning, synonymity and translatability, analyticity and syntheticity, language and truth, and language and reality. Depending on the teacher offering the course, emphasis and readings may differ slightly from year to year. Philosophers covered might include: Plato, Aristotle, Locke, Leibniz, Wilhelm von Humboldt, Saussure, Wittgenstein, Chomsky, Quine, Jakobson, Davidson, Lakoff.

Advisory to Majors: to be taken in year 2 or above.

Learning outcomes (as shown on CUSIS)

Through class presentation, group discussion, writing assignments, book reports and/or final paper, students will be expected to demonstrate familiarity with the major ideas and theories of the philosophers of language, as well as the relations between linguistic theories and linguistic realities.

Topics

Reference, Naming and Necessity. We will study some aspects of the philosophies of language of Frege, Russssell, Quine, Kripke, Putnam, Dummett and Lewis and their implications for the topics listed

Learning activities

The course aims to be both a "research lecture" and a "discussion lecture". It will consist of prepared inputs by the teacher as well as presentations by the students, based on the texts supplied. Adjustments can be made according to the needs of the students.

Assessment scheme as prescribed on CUSIS (revise if necessary)

Task nature	Description	Weight
Reading response	At home (700-1000 words in English; due 23 October before lecture, by email)	20%
Term paper	At home (1800-2300 words in English; due 6 December by 5	50%

	pm, by email)	
In-class activities and discussion	See below.	30%

Remarks on Assessment Scheme (if any)

Reading response (20%). Each student is expected to write an original reading response in which they accomplish two main tasks. The first task is to present a single argument, objection, problem, or proposed solution to a problem discussed in one of the weeks 1 – 8 readings. This should not be a summary of the reading as a whole. The second task is to provide a response to that argument, objection, etc. This should take the form of a single critical claim (a claim in which the writer states whether they agree or disagree, poses an objection or major worry, observes a surprising implication, etc.) followed by a short defense of that critical claim (an argument). The claim in question should not be sociological or exegetical. (The reading response should also begin with a short introductory paragraph in which the writer says what they'll focus on and what their critical claim will be.) The reading response should be 700 – 1000 words in English (inclusive of footnotes), and it should be emailed (as a Word document, with English-language font) before lecture time on 22 October. (Please title the subject of your email "PHIL4313 reading response", and please title the attached term paper file "[YOUR SURNAME, your given name] PHIL4313 reading response".) Please adhere to the deadline and to the word count requirement. Note that the penalties for lateness and for failing to meet the word count requirement are the same as for the term paper (as written below). *Please note also that any use of AI software is strictly prohibited and will be considered plagiarism.*

Term paper (50%). Each student is expected to write an original paper in which they state and defend a substantial philosophical thesis on a topic related to the issues discussed in this course. (The claim should not be sociological or exegetical.) The term paper topic proposal should be submitted over email before the week 10 (6 November) lecture. (You are encouraged to submit the proposal earlier, in case it is not immediately approved.) The paper should be 1800 – 2300 words in English (inclusive of footnotes but not the bibliography), and it should be emailed (as a Word document, with English-language font) by 5 p.m. on 3 December. (Please title the subject of your email "PHIL4313 term paper", and please title the attached term paper file "[YOUR SURNAME, your given name] PHIL4313 term paper".) Please adhere to the deadline and to the word count requirement. If the paper is late, an initial penalty of 1/3rd of a letter grade will be applied; an additional penalty of 1/3rd of a letter grade will then be applied for each additional 24-hour period before the paper is submitted. Similarly, for every 100 words over or under the word count, a penalty of 1/3rd of a letter grade will be applied. *Please note that any use of AI software is strictly prohibited and will be considered plagiarism.*

In-class activities and discussion (30%). The activities/exercises involved in this will be determined once the overall class size is known. Activities/exercises may involve presentations, quizzes, small-group collaborative work, and/or organized debates (in addition to class discussion). (Please note that, because attendance is required in order for one to participate in these activities, each unexcused absence will result in a letter-grade deduction to one's in-class activities and discussion score.)

Grade Descriptor
Please refer to: http://phil.arts.cuhk.edu.hk/~phidept/UG/Grade_descriptors.pdf

Recommended learning resources

Ahmed, A. (2007) *Saul Kripke* London: Continuum Press)
Burge T. (1979) 'Sinning Against Frege', *Philosophical Review*, vol. 88, pp. 398-432
Burgess J. (2006) 'Saul Kripke: Naming and Necessity', in J. Shand (ed.) *Central Works of Philosophy*, vol. 5, Chesham: Acumen, 166-86
Burgess, J. (2012) *Kripke* Cambridge, Polity

Donnellan, K. 1966 'Reference and Definite Descriptions,' *Philosophical Review*, 25: 281-304.

Donnellan, K. 1972: 'Proper Names and Identifying Descriptions', in D. Davidson and G. Harman eds. *Semantics of Natural Language*. Dordrecht: Reidel, 252-355.

Donnellan, K. 1977: 'The Contingent A Priori and Rigid Designators,' *Midwest Studies in Philosophy*, 2: 12–27.

Dummett, M. (1973) <u>Frege: Philosophy of Language</u>, London, Duckworth 1st ed. (2nd ed. 1981).

Dummett, M. 1981 *The Interpretation of Frege's Philosophy*, London, Duckworth.

Dummett, M. 1974 'Postscript' *Synthese* 27:   523-44. Reprinted in *Truth and Other Enigmas*, London, Duckworth, 1978 as 'The Social Character of Meaning', 420-31.

Evans, G. 1973 'The Causal Theory of Names' *Proceedings of the Aristotelian Society, Supplementary Volumes*, Vol. 47, pp. 187-225

Frege, G. 1892 'On Sense and Reference' in Frege, G. (1969) *Translations from the Philosophical Writings of Gottlob Frege*, Geach P. and Max Black M. (eds.), Oxford, Blackwell, also in *The Frege Reader*, Beaney M. (ed.), Oxford, Blackwell, 1997

Hughes, C. 2004   *Kripke: Names, Necessity and Identity* Oxford, Clarendon Press

Jackson, F. 1998 'Reference and Description Revisited', *Philosophical Perspectives* 12:201-218.

Kaplan, D.   1969 'Quantifying In' in Davidson and Hintikka eds. *Word and Objections: Essays on the Work of W.V. Quine*, Dordrecht-Holland, D. Reidel Publishing Company.

Kripke S. 2011 *Philosophical Troubles*, vol. 1 Oxford, Oxford University Press

Kripke S. 2013 *Reference and Existence* Oxford, Oxford University Press

Kripke, S. 1980 *Naming and Necessity*, Cambridge, Harvard University Press, reprinting with new Preface of   Kripke, S. (1972) 'Naming and Necessity' in Harman G. and Davidson d. (eds.) *The Semantics of Natural Language*, Dordrecht, Holland, D. Reidel, 253-355

Kroon, F., 1987 'Causal Descriptivism,' *Australasian Journal of Philosophy* 65, 1-17.

Lewis, D., 1968 'Counterpart Theory and Quantified Modal Logic', *The Journal of Philosophy*, 65: 113–26. Reprinted in Loux 1979 and with additional 'Postscripts' in Lewis 1983.

Lewis, D., 1971 'Counterparts of Persons and Their Bodies', *The Journal of Philosophy*, 68: 203–11. Reprinted in Lewis 1983.

Lewis, D. 1984 'Putnam's Paradox', *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*, 62: 221-236

Lewis, D. 1986 *On the Plurality of Worlds* Oxford: Blackwell

1994, "Reduction of Mind," in Samuel Guttenplan (ed.), *A Companion to Philosophy of Mind*, Oxford: Blackwell Publishers, pp. 412–431

Lewis, D. 1997 'Naming the Colours' *Australasian Journal of Philosophy* 75 3:325-42.

Loar, B. 1976 'The Semantics of Singular Terms', *Philosophical Studies* 30:353 - 377.

Mackie, P. 1987, "Essence, Origin, and Bare Identity", *Mind*, 96: 173–201.

Mackie, P. 2002 'Deep Contingency and Necessary A Posteriori Truth', *Analysis* 62:225-236

Mackie, P. 2006, *How Things Might Have Been: Individuals, Kinds, and Essential Properties*, Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Marcus, R.B. 1961 "Modalities and Intensional Languages", *Synthese* 13: 303-322.

Marcus, R. B., 1967, "Essentialism in Modal Logic", *Noûs*, 1: 91–96.

Marcus, R.B. 1993 *Modalities: Philosophical Essays.* Oxoford: Oxford University Press

Marcus, R.B., Quine, W.V.O. et al. 1962 "Discussion of Marcus 1961. *Synthese* 14: 132—143

McCulloch, G. 1989 *The Game of the Name*, Oxford, Clarendon Press

McGinn, Colin 2015 *Philosophy of Language: The Classics Explained* Cambridge, Mass., MIT Press

Miller, A. 2007 *Philosophy of Language* 2nd edn. London: Roultledge

Noonan, H. 1979 'Rigid Designation', *Analysis* 39:174 - 182.

Noonan, H. 1983, 'The Necessity of Origin', *Mind*, 92: 1–20.

Noonan, H.W. 2001 *Frege*, Cambridge: Polity Press

Noonan, H. 2013 *Kripke and Naming and Necessity* London, Routledge

Putnam, H. 1973 'Meaning and Reference', *Journal of Philosophy* 70:699-711

Putnam, H. 1975 'the Meaning of "Meaning"' in *Mind Language and Reality*, Cambridge, Cambridge University Press

Quine, W 1953 'Reference and Modality' in *From A Logical Point of View* New York: Harper and Row, 1953, 139-59, also in L. Linsky (ed.) *Reference and Modality* Oxford: Oxford University Press 1971

Quine, W 1956 (1971) 'Quantifiers and Propositional Attitudes' *Journal of Philosophy* 53: 177-87. reprinted in *The Ways of Paradox and Other Essays*, 2nd edn, Cambridge M.A.: Harvard University Press

Quine, W. 1957, 'The Scope and Language of Science', *British Journal for the Philosophy of Science*, 8: 1–17; reprinted in Quine, 1966.

Quine, W. 1960, *Word and Object*, Cambridge, Mass.: M.I.T. Press, 1960.

Quine, W. 1966 *Ways of Paradox*, New York: Random House. Second edition, enlarged, Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1976.

Quine, W 1971 'Reply to Professor Marcus' in *The Ways of Paradox and Other Essays*, 2nd edn, Cambridge M.A.: Harvard University Press

Quine, W 1971 'Three Grades of Modal Involvement' in *The Ways of Paradox and Other Essays*, 2nd edn, Cambridge M.A.: Harvard University Press

Quine, W.1976, 'Worlds Away', *The Journal of Philosophy*, 73: 859–63. Quine, W. 1977 'Intensions Revisited', *Midwest Studies in Philosophy*, 2: 5–11. Reprinted in Quine, *Theories and Things*, Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1981.

Quine, W. 2001 'Confessions of a Confirmed Extensionalist' in J. Floyd and S. Shieh eds *Future Pasts: the Analytic Tradition in Twentieth Century Philosophy*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 215-21.

Russell, B. 1905 `On Denoting' Mind   479-493

Russell, B. 1910-11 `Knowledge by Acquaintance and Knowledge by Description' *Proceedings of the Aristotelian Society* 1910-1911

Russell. B. 1919 'Descriptions' (in *Introduction to Mathematical Philosophy*   London: Allen and Unwin)

Salmon, N. 1982 *Reference and Essence*, Oxford: Basil Blackwell.

Searle, J. 1958. 'Proper Names.' Mind 67, 166-173.

Searle, J. 1983 *Intentionality* Oxford: Oxford University Press

Soames, S. 1998, 'The Modal Argument: Wide Scope and Rigidified Descriptions,' Noûs, 321: 1–22

Soames, S.   2002, *Beyond Rigidity: The Unfinished Semantic Agenda of Naming and Necessity*, Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Soames, S. 2003 *Philosophical Analysis in the twentieth century*, volumes 1&2, Oxford: Princeton University Press

Sosa, D. 2001 'Rigidity in the Scope of Russell's Theory', Noûs 35:1–38.

Stanley, J. 1997 'Names and Rigid Designation' in R. Hale and C. Wright eds. A Companion to the Philosophy of Language, Oxford: Blackwell.

Strawson, P. (1959) *Individuals: An Essay in Descriptive Metaphysics*. London: Methuen.

Course schedule

Week	Topics	Teaching Mode Online / in-campus	Required reading	Tutorials	Remarks
1	Introduction: the Kripkean Revolution	*in-campus*	Burgess, J. (2013) <u>Saul Kripke: Puzzles and Mysteries</u>, Polity Press, Introduction		
2	Naming: The Background 1	*in-campus*	Frege, 1892, 'On Sense and Reference,'in <u>Translations from the Philosophical Writings of Gottlob Frege</u>, Peter Geach and Max Black eds., Oxford: Basil Blackwell, 1960, 56–78.		
3	Naming: the Background 2	*in-campus*	Russell, B. 1905, 'On Denoting,' <u>Mind</u>, 14: 479–93.		
4	Necesssity: the Background 1	*in-campus*	Quine, W. 1953b, 'Three Grades of Modal Involvement',<u>Proceedings of the 11th International Congress of Philosophy</u>, Brussels, 1953, Volume 14, North-Holland Publishing; reprinted in Quine 1966, <u>Ways of Paradox</u>, New York: Random House. Second edition, enlarged, Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1976158-176		
5	Necessity; the Background 2	*in-campus*	Quine, W. 1956, 'Quantifiers and Propositional Attitudes', <u>Journal of Philosophy</u> 53: 177-187; reprinted in Quine 1966, 185-196.		
6	Naming: Exposition	*in-campus*	Kripke, S. 1973 'Naming and Necessity', in D. Davidson and G. Harman eds.. Semantics of Natural		

			Language. Dordrecht: Reidel,252-355. Reprinted in revised form as a monograph by Basil Blackwell, Oxford,1980, Preface and Ch 1.		
7	Naming: Responses	*in-campus*	Dummett, M. 1973 Frege: Philosophy of Language, London, Duckworth, 2nd ed. 1981, 'Appendix: Note on an attempted refutation of Frege'		
8	Naming: Responses concluded	*in-campus*	Burge, T. 1979 'Sinning against Frege' Philosophical Review 88: 398–432		
9	Kripke, the Theory of Reference	*in-campus*	Kripke, S. 1973 'Naming and Necessity', in D. Davidson and G. Harman eds.. Semantics of Natural Language. Dordrecht: Reidel, 252-355. Reprinted in revised form as a monograph by Basil Blackwell, Oxford, 1980, Ch 2.		
10	Kripke and Quine	*in-campus*	Quine, W. 1977, 'Intensions Revisited', Midwest Studies in Philosophy, 2: 5−11. Reprinted in Quine, Theories and Things, Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1981.		
11	Kripke and Lewis	*in-campus*	Lewis, D. 1986 On the Plurality of Worlds, Oxford: Basil Blackwell, Ch.4		
12	Essentialism	*in-campus*	Kripke, S. 1973 'Naming and Necessity', in D. Davidson and G. Harman eds.. Semantics of Natural		

13	Extensions	*in-campus*	Language. Dordrecht: Reidel, 252-355. Reprinted in revised form as a monograph by Basil Blackwell, Oxford, 1980, Ch 2 and Appendix.		
			Kripke, 1979 'A Puzzle About Belief,' in Meaning and Use, Margalit, A. ed., Boston: D, Reidel Publishing Company, 239–283, reprinted in Philosophical Troubles 2011, Oxford, OUP		

Details of course website

Contact details for teacher(s) or TA(s)

Teacher	
Name:	Prof. Harold Noonan
Office location:	
Telephone:	
Email:	

TA	
Name:	
Office location:	
Telephone:	
Email:	

Academic honesty and plagiarism

Attention is drawn to University policy and regulations on honesty in academic work, and to the disciplinary guidelines and procedures applicable to breaches of such policy and regulations. Details may be found at http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/

With each assignment, students will be required to submit a signed declaration that they are aware of these policies, regulations, guidelines and procedures. For group projects, all students of the same group should be asked to sign the declaration.

For assignments in the form of a computer-generated document that is principally text-based and submitted via VeriGuide, the statement, in the form of a receipt, will be issued by the system upon students' uploading of the soft copy of the assignment. Assignments without the receipt will not be graded by teachers. Only the final version of the assignment should be submitted via VeriGuide.