City University of Hong Kong

Information on a Course
offered by Department of Linguistics and Translation
with effect from Semester A in 2014 / 2015

Part I

Course Title: Philosophy of Language

Course Code: LT5413

Course Duration: 1 Semester

Credit Units: 3

Level: P5

Medium of Instruction: English

Prerequisites: Nil

Precursors: Nil

Equivalent Courses: CTL5413 Philosophy of Language

Exclusive Courses: Nil

Part II

Course Aims

This course aims to help students explore the multifaceted problems in the part of the philosophy of language which is closely related to their study with a view to broadening their intellectual horizons, deepening their understanding of language, sharpening their awareness of human cognition, and reinforcing their analytical and critical skills for tackling theoretical issues in their respective disciplines from the philosophical perspective. It also intends to enhance students' intellectual rigour and foster their critical spirit for the pursuit of examined scholarship.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

No.	CILOs	Weighting (if applicable)
1.	Explain the central issues in the philosophy of language relevant to their disciplines	
2.	Demonstrate a good knowledge of current literature on the philosophy of language	
3.	Analyse and evaluate conceptual issues from the logico-philosophical perspective	
4.	Demonstrate skills and techniques in analytical and critical thinking	

Teaching and Learning Activities (TLAs)

(Indicative of likely activities and tasks designed to facilitate students' achievement of the CILOs. Final details will be provided to students in their first week of attendance in this course)

CILO No.	TLAs	Hours/week (if applicable)
CILO 1	Lecture; tutorial (class discussion)	2 hours lecture;
CILO 2	Lecture; tutorial (discussion on assigned readings)	1 hour tutorial
CILO 3-4	Lecture; tutorial (student presentation)	

Assessment Tasks/Activities

(Indicative of likely activities and tasks designed to assess how well the students achieve the CILOs. Final details will be provided to students in their first week of attendance in this course)

CILO No.	Type of Assessment Tasks/Activities	Weighting (if applicable)	Remarks
CILOs 1-4	Presentation	30%	
CILOs 1-4	Research paper on a specific problem (15 pages)	70%	

Grading of Student Achievement:

Refer to Grading of Courses in the Academic Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Degrees.

Grading pattern: standard (A+, A, A-...F). Grading is based on students' performance in assessment tasks/activities.

Excellent (A-, A, A+)	Good (B-, B, B+)	Adequate (C-, C, C+)	Marginal (D)
Strong evidence of original thinking in the philosophy of language; excellent organization; superior grasp of subject matter; strong evidence of extensive knowledge base; strong evidence of analytic ability and critical capacity	Some evidence of original thinking in the philosophy of language; good organization; good grasp of subject matter; some evidence of extensive knowledge base; good evidence of analytical ability and critical capacity	Some attempts in original thinking in the philosophy of language; reasonable understanding of issues in the philosophy of language; some evidence of familiarity with literature; some capacity to analyse and critique	Little evidence of original thinking in the philosophy of language; limited knowledge and understanding of issues in the philosophy of language; weakness in critical and analytical skills

Part III

Keyword Syllabus

The linguistic turn; Central questions in the philosophy of language; Philosophy and semantics; Philosophy and syntax; Philosophy and pragmatics; Philosophical foundations of linguistic theories.

Recommended Reading
Text(s)

Selected entries from *Routlege Encyclopedia of Philosophy*; *The Cambridge Dictionary of Philosophy*; *The Oxford Companion to Philosophy; The Blackwell Introduction to Philosophy*.

Austin, J. L. 1975. *How To Do Things With Words*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard UP.

Black, Max. 1993. "More about metaphor". In Andrew Ortony (ed.), *Metaphor and Thought*. 2nd ed. Cambridge: CUP.

Davidson, Donald. 1977. "A Nice Derangement of Epitaphs". In Ernest LePore (ed.), *Truth and Interpretation: Perspectives in the Philosophy of Donald Davidson*. Oxford: Basil Blackwell, 1986, 433-446.

_____. 1984. "What Metaphors Mean". In *Inquries into Truth and Interpretation*. Oxford: Clarendon.

Donnellan, Keith. 1966. "Reference and Definite Descriptions". In A. P. Martinich (ed.), *The Philosophy of Language*. New York: OUP, 1985, 236-248.

Grice, Paul. 1989. *Studies in the Way of Words*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard UP.

Harris, Roy. 1981. *The Language Myth*. London: Duckworth.

Katz, Jerrold J. (Ed). 1985. *The Philosophy of Linguistics*. Oxford: OUP.

Kripke, Saul. 1972. "Naming and Necessity". In Davidson and Harman (eds.), *Semantics of Natural Language*, 253-355.

_____. 1977. "Speaker's Reference and Semantic Reference". In A. P. Martinich (ed.), *The Philosophy of Language*. New York: OUP, 1985, 249-268.

Lakoff, George. 1993. "The contemporary theory of metaphor". In Andrew Ortony (ed.), *Metaphor and Thought*. 2nd ed. Cambridge: CUP.

McCormack, Win. 2001. "Deconstructing the Election". *The Nation,* March 26, 24-34.

_____. 1996. *The Language Connection*. Bristol: Thoemmes Press.

Miller, Alexander. Ed. 2007. *Philosophy of Language*. 2nd ed. Oxon: Routledge

Orwell, George. 1968. "Politics and the English Language". In *Complete Works.* London: Secker & Warburg, 735-744.

Reddy, Michael J. 1993. "The conduit metaphor: A case of frame conflict in our language about language". In Andrew Ortony (ed.), *Metaphor and Thought*. 2nd ed. Cambridge: CUP.

Robinson, Ian. 1975. *The New Grammarians' Funeral: A critique of Noam Chomsky's linguistics*. Cambridge: CUP.

Rosemont, Henry, Jr. 1994. "Logical Reflections on Linguistic Investigations". Paper presented at CTL seminar, City University of Hong Kong.

Ryle, Gilbert. 1931-32. "Systematically Misleading Expressions". *The Aristotelian Society* XXXII, 139-70.

_____. 1969. "It Was To Be". *Dilemma*. Cambridge: CUP, 15-35.

岑溢成. 1989. "論說者的指涉". 分析哲學與科學哲學論文集. 《新亞學術集刊》第九期. 香港: 香港中文大學新亞書院, 126-130.

冼景炬. 1997. "就喬姆斯基 E-語言與 I-語言的區分探討其語言哲學的問題". 葉錦明編.《邏輯思想與語言哲學》. 台北: 學生書店, 163-184.

Online Resources

Guide to philosophy on the internet: http://www.earlham.edu/~peters/philinks.htm
Stanford Encyclopaedia of Philosophy: http://plato.stanford.edu/contents.html
Philosophy Resources, Central Michigan Libraries:
http://www.lib.cmich.edu/subjectguides/humanities/philosophy.htm