PHIL 76500
Philosophy of Language (CORE)

Fall 2005
GSUC, CUNY
9:30-11:30 am, Thursday
Professor R. L. Mendelsohn

TEXT: The Philosophy of Language, 4th ed. A. P. Martinich, OUP

1. (9/1): Introduction, Sense and Reference
   “On Sense and Nominatum,” Gottlob Frege [M13]
   Additional Reading: Mill (1843: M19), Frege (1891), Frege (1918), Mendelsohn (2005a)

2. (9/8): Sense and Reference, Continued

3. (9/15): Denoting Expressions
   “On Denoting,” Bertrand Russell [M14]

4. (9/22): The Description Theory of Names
   Naming and Necessity, Ch. 1, Saul Kripke [M20]
   Additional Reading: Searle (1957: M23), (Evans, 197: M19), (Putnam, 1973: M21)

5. (9/29): Modality
   Naming and Necessity, Ch. 2, Saul Kripke
   Additional Reading: Quine (1953), Mendelsohn (1979), Fitting & Mendelsohn (1998), Lewis (1968)

6. (10/6): Indexicals and Possible World Semantics
   “Dthat,” David Kaplan [M24]
   “Demonstratives,” David Kaplan
   Additional Reading: Kaplan (1978), Perry (1977), Barwise & Perry (1981:
7. (10/20): Propositional Attitudes
   Mathematical Logic, Ch. 1, W. V. O. Quine
   “On Saying That,” Donald Davidson [M27]
   Additional Reading: Davidson (1979, 1968-69), Kripke (1979: M30)

   Midterm Examination

8. (10/27): The Referential/Attributive Distinction
   “Reference and Definite Descriptions,” Keith Donnellan [M16]
   “Speaker’s Reference and Semantic Reference,” Saul Kripke
   Additional Reading: Strawson (1950: M6), Kripke (1977), (Neale, 1990: Chs. 3,9), Mendelsohn (2005b)

9. (11/3) Gricean Semantics
   “Indicative Conditionals,” Paul Grice
   Additional Reading: Austin [M8], Grice (1957: M5), Searle [M9]

10. (11/10): The Analytic/Synthetic Distinction
    “Two Dogmas of Empiricism,” W. V. O. Quine [M2]
    “In Defense of a Dogma,” Paul Grice & Peter Strawson
    Additional Reading: ?, Quine (1960: ch. 2)

    “Belief and the Basis of Meaning,” Donald Davidson [M33]
    Additional Reading: Tarski (1944: M4)

12. (12/1): Wittgenstein on Private Language
    Philosophical Investigations,§243 ff. Ludwig Wittgenstein
    “On Rules and Private Language,” Saul Kripke [M38]
    Additional Reading: Cook (1965: M37),

13. (12/8) Symptoms and Criteria
    Dreaming, Norman Malcolm
    “Dreaming and Depth Grammar,” Hilary Putnam

    Syntactic Structures, Noam Chomsky
    “Review of Skinner’s Verbal Behavior”

   FINAL EXAMINATION
References


Black, M. & Geach, P. (1952), Translations from the Philosophical Writings of Gottlob Frege, Blackwell, Oxford.


