PHIL 76500
Philosophy of Language (CORE)
Spring 2007, GSUC
11:45-1:45 Tuesday
Professor R. L. Mendelsohn, CUNY

The reading is drawn primarily from

- *Readings in the Philosophy of Language*, ed. Peter Ludlow, MIT

1 Jan 30 & 2 Feb 6
Frege: Sense and Reference

**Main Text:** “On Sense and Reference,” Frege [Ludlow 22]

**Additional Reading:** The Philosophy of Gottlob Frege, Mendelsohn (2005: ch. 2-4), *Frege: Philosophy of Language*, Dummett (1973: ch. 6)

3 Feb 13
Russell: Denoting Expressions

**Main Texts:** “On Denoting” & “Descriptions,” Russell [Martinich 14, Ludlow 15]

**Additional Readings:** The Philosophy of Gottlob Frege, Mendelsohn (2005: ch.6) & *Descriptions*, Neale (1990: ch.2)

4 Feb 20
The Description Theory of Names
The Semantic/Epistemic Argument

**Main Texts:** Naming and Necessity, Ch. 2, Kripke [Ludlow 25]


5 Feb 27
The Description Theory of Names
The Modal Argument

**Main Text:** “Identity and Necessity,” Kripke [Ludlow 25]

6 Mar 6 & 7 Mar 13
Perry & Kaplan: Indexicals and Direct Reference


**Additional Reading:** “The Thought: A Logical Inquiry,” Frege [Ludlow 1]

8 Mar 20
Propositional Attitudes


**Additional Reading:** “Propositional Attitude Reports,” McKay and Nelson (Winter 2006)

9 Mar 27
Strawson & Donnellan: The Referential/Attributive Distinction


10 April 17
Grice: Semantics and Pragmatics

**Main Texts:** “Utterer’s Meaning and Intentions” and “Logic and Conversation,” Grice [Ludlow 4, Martinich 11]

**Additional Reading:** “Performative Utterances,” Austin [Martinich 8], “Meaning,” [Martinich 5], Searle [Martinich 9], “What is a Theory of Meaning?” Michael Dummett [Ludlow 7]

11 April 24
Quine: The Analytic/Synthetic Distinction


**Additional Reading:** “Analyticity,” Boghossian (1997)
12 May 1
Davidson: Truth and Meaning

“Truth and Meaning” and “Belief and the Basis of Meaning,” Davidson [Ludlow 5, Martinich 33]


13 May 8
Wittgenstein: Following a Rule

Main Reading: Philosophical Investigations §243 ff, Wittgenstein

“On Rules and Private Language,” Kripke [Martinich 38]

Additional Reading: “Wittgenstein on Privacy,” Cook (1965)[Martinich 37]

14 May 15
Chomsky: Syntactic Structures

Main Text Aspects of The Theory of Syntax, Chomsky

References


