PHILOSOPHY OF LANGUAGE

FALL 2004

PROFESSOR: Chris Latiolais
Philosophy Department
Kalamazoo College
Humphrey House #201
Telephone # 337-7076
Office Hours:
1) Mon. 2:00 - 3:30
2) Tues. 10:30 - 11:30
3) By Appointment.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Examination of some basic issues in the philosophy of language, with an emphasis upon speech-act theory. We will first review selected issues in traditional semantics: the study of meaning, reference, truth and translation. We will then turn to pragmatics or speech-act theory, the study of what we do with words. We close with a discussion of the significance of the philosophy of language for sociology, political science, psychology and literary analysis.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Students will be evaluated on the basis of class participation, vocabulary quizzes, midterm examinations and a final paper.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TYPE OF EVALUATION</th>
<th>FREQUENCY</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class Participation: Seminar presentations, classroom discussion and email correspondence</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm Examinations</td>
<td>2 @ 15%</td>
<td>30%</td>
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REQUIRED TEXTS:


3. Bakhtin, M. M. *Speech Genre and Other Late Essays* (University of Texas Press, Austin, 1986).

ADDITIONAL RESOURCE TEXTS:


READING SCHEDULE

INTRODUCTION

TUESDAY: WEEK ONE


2. Syntax, Semantics and Pragmatics: Three levels of abstraction.

1. THE BASIC STRUCTURE OF SPEECH ACTS:

THURSDAY:
1. "What is a Speech Act" (John Searle, 1965).

TUESDAY: WEEK TWO

1. Reading of Amelia Bedelia (Cecilia Latiolais).
4. Quiz #1.

THURSDAY:

1. Review.

2. SPEAKER MEANING AND SPEAKER REFERENCE:

TUESDAY: WEEK THREE

1. "Reference and Definite Descriptions" (Keith Donnellan, 1966).

THURSDAY:

2. Quiz #2.

3. INDEXICALS

TUESDAY: WEEK FOUR

1. "Frege on Demonstratives" (John Perry, 1977).
2. "How to Bridge the Gap Between Meaning and Reference" (Howard Wettstein, 1984).

THURSDAY:

1. Review
2. Midterm Assignment #1.
3. Quiz #3.
4. INDIRECT SPEECH ACTS:

TUESDAY: WEEK FIVE


5. CONVERSATIONAL IMPLICATURE AND RELEVANCE.

THURSDAY:

3. Quiz #4.
4. Evening Movie: Twelfth Night (8:00 PM, Recital Hall FA).

6. THE CLASSIFICATION, FUNCTIONS AND VALIDITY DIMENSIONS OF SPEECH-ACTS: COMMUNICATIVE VERSUS STRATEGIC ACTION:

TUESDAY: WEEK SIX


WEDNESDAY:

Evening Movie: Glen Gary, Glen Ross (8:00 PM, Recital Hall FA).

THURSDAY:

2. Quiz #5.

TUESDAY: WEEK SEVEN


WEDNESDAY:
Evening Movie: Oleanna (8:00 PM, Recital Hall FA).

THURSDAY:


2. Quiz # 4.

7. THE PROBLEM OF SPEECH GENRES AND EMPIRICAL PRAGMATICS:

TUESDAY: WEEK EIGHT


THURSDAY:

1. "The Problem of Speech Genres" (Continued).

2. Midterm Examination #2.

8. THE EXTENSION OF SPEECH-ACT THEORY TO LITERARY DISCOURSE:

TUESDAY: WEEK NINE


THURSDAY:

1. Review:

9. REVIEW AND EVALUATIONS:

TUESDAY: WEEK TEN

1. Review for Final Assignment.

2. Student Evaluations.

FINALS WEEK