Philosophy Department

KALAMAZOO COLLEGE
1200 Academy St. Kalamazoo, MI 49006

SENIOR SEMINAR: THE PRAGMATICS OF SPEECH GENRE

FALL 1998

KALAMAZOO COLLEGE

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Offices Hours:
1) Mon. 2:00 - 3:00
2) Tues. 10:30 - 12:30
3) By Appointment.

Texts:


SEMINAR DESCRIPTION:

This seminar introduces students to a fundamental question of philosophical pragmatics or "speech-act theory": namely, What is the logical structure of everyday acts of communication? We will first examine the traditional answer given to this question by John Searle in his various works. We will then turn to a recent, far-reaching development of pragmatics by Juergen Habermas, who has argued against the basic tenets of Searle's, classical approach to speech act theory. These debates between classical and contemporary pragmatists set the stage for examining the potential contribution to the philosophy of language contained in the later works of Mikhail Bakhtin, a Russian literary theorist. In this tract of the course, the basic question we address in the seminar -- What is the basic logical structure of everyday communication -- takes the more specific of whether Bakhtin's concept of speech genre identifies essential dimensions of this act neglected in contemporary research in pragmatics.

READING SCHEDULE

WEEK 1: THE CLASSICAL ACCOUNT

WEEK 2: THE SPEECH-ACT SCHEMA: LINGUISTIC COMPREHENSION AS A COGNITIVE-INFERENTIAL LABOR:

WEEK 3: THE VALIDITY BASIS OF SPEECH: PRAGMATICS AND THE PHILOSOPHY OF CONSCIOUSNESS:

WEEK 4: THE THEORY OF COMMUNICATIVE ACTION: THE PHILOSOPHY OF LANGUAGE IN THE SERVICE OF A CONTEMPORARY CRITIQUE OF REASON:

WEEK 5: RETRACING THE METHODOLOGICAL ABSTRACTIONS OF FORMAL PRAGMATICS:

WEEK 6: BAKHTIN'S PHILOSOPHY OF LANGUAGE: SPEECH ACTS AND SPEECH GENRES:

WEEK 7: BAKHTIN'S PHILOSOPHY OF LANGUAGE: SPEECH ACTS AND SPEECH GENRES:

WEEK 8: BAKHTIN'S PHILOSOPHY OF LANGUAGE: SPEECH ACTS AND SPEECH GENRES:

WEEK 9: BAKHTIN'S PHILOSOPHY OF LANGUAGE: SPEECH ACTS AND SPEECH GENRES:

WEEK 10: BAKHTIN'S PHILOSOPHY OF LANGUAGE: SPEECH ACTS AND SPEECH GENRES:

FINALS WEEK: