

# Anglo-American Philosophy Since 1950 (PHIL 428)

Andrew Bacon

In this course we trace the development of analytic philosophy through the second half of the twentieth century. We shall cover the approach of the ordinary language philosophers, work on theories of linguistic meaning that followed this and a number of particular problems in the philosophy of language and metaphysics that played a central role in some of the later writers of the last century. Among the authors we shall study are: Wittgenstein, Ryle, Hare, Grice, Quine, Kripke, Davidson, and Lewis.

**PREREQUISITES:** There are no official prerequisites for this course but it would be useful to have taken one or more philosophy courses and to have some background in logic.

## 1 Course Details

**CLASSES:** Mondays and Wednesdays 10-11.30, VKC 210

**OFFICE HOURS:** Tuesdays 15.00-17.00 224 Stonier Hall

**WEBSITE:** TBD

**PLAGIARISM/CHEATING:** Cheating in exams or a plagiarised paper results in an automatic failure of the course.

Papers may contain work that is not your own in two instances.

- Direct quotation. The relevant text is put within quotation marks or indentation, and the source is properly cited.
- Paraphrase. You will often be asked to put the ideas in the texts you read into your own words. In these cases you should always make it clear what you are doing and whose ideas you are paraphrasing.

Any other instances of work that is not your own in papers is counted as plagiarism.

**PHONES:** Phones must be on silent and out of sight during class.

**STATEMENT FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:** Any student requesting academic accommodations based on a disability is required to register with Disability Services and Programs (DSP) each semester. A letter of verification for approved accommodations can be obtained from DSP. Please be sure the letter is delivered to me (or to TA) as early in the semester as possible. DSP

is located in STU 301 and is open 8:30 a.m.5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. The phone number for DSP is (213) 740-0776.

STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: USC seeks to maintain an optimal learning environment. General principles of academic honesty include the concept of respect for the intellectual property of others, the expectation that individual work will be submitted unless otherwise allowed by an instructor, and the obligations both to protect ones own academic work from misuse by others as well as to avoid using anothers work as ones own. All students are expected to understand and abide by these principles. Scampus, the Student Guidebook, contains the Student Conduct Code in Section 11.00, while the recommended sanctions are located in Appendix A: <http://www.usc.edu/dept/publications/SCAMPUS/gov/>. Students will be referred to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs and Community Standards for further review, should there be any suspicion of academic dishonesty. The Review process can be found at: <http://www.usc.edu/student-affairs/SJACS/>.

#### TEXTS

We will be working primarily from

S. Soames ‘Philosophical Analysis in the Twentieth Century, Volume 2’, Princeton University Press, 2003

Everyone will need a copy of this book as well as Kripke’s ‘Naming and Necessity’ (see below), which we will work through later in the course.

Primary readings will be taken from the following books

- P. Grice ‘Studies in the Way of Words’, Harvard University Press 1989
- R. Hare ‘The Language of Morals’, Oxford University Press 1972
- S. Kripke ‘Naming and Necessity’, Harvard University Press 1980
- S. Kripke ‘Wittgenstein on Rules and Private Language’, Harvard University Press 1982
- D. Lewis ‘On the Plurality of Worlds’, Cambridge University Press 1986
- W.V.O. Quine ‘Word and Object’, MIT press 1964
- L. Wittgenstein ‘Philosophical Investigations’, Macmillan 1953

Texts will be selected each week and must be read before the corresponding class. You will most likely need to read each text more than once so leave plenty of time.

IMPORTANT NOTE: the readings for the first two classes will be chapter 1 of Soames as well as sections 1-87 from Wittgenstein’s ‘Philosophical Investigations’.

GRADING: You will be assessed on the basis of three writing assignments, a class presentation and class participation. The writing assignments will consist of short papers (5-7 single spaced pages.) For the presentation you will be

required to provide a clear 10-20 minute summary and explanation of the weeks reading to the rest of the class.

Grading. First paper: 20%, second paper: 25%, third paper 30%, class presentation: 15%, class participation 10%.

## 2 Preliminary Schedule

The topics listed here are subject to change.

### WITTGENSTEIN AND THE ORDINARY LANGUAGE PHILOSOPHERS

1. Wittgenstein on referential semantics
2. Ryle's Dilemmas
3. Hare's performative theory of goodness

### MEANING

4. Grice: Logic and conversation
5. Grice: Meaning
6. Quine: Meaning. Indeterminacy of Translation.
7. Quine: Indeterminacy of Translation. Kripke: meaning Skepticism.
8. Davidson: truth and meaning

### INTENSIONALITY

9. Quine: Three grades of modal involvement, Prior: Sentences and propositions

10. Kripke Naming and Necessity Lecture 1.
11. Kripke: Naming and Necessity Lecture 2

### EXTERNALISM

- 12: Kripke: Naming and Necessity Lecture 3
13. Putnam: Meaning externalism

### MODALITY

14. Lewis: The Plurality of Worlds