

**PHIL 326 001**  
**PHILOSOPHY OF LANGUAGE**

**Term:** Term 2, Winter 2022/23  
**Meetings:** TTh 12:30pm-1:50pm  
**Method of Delivery:** In person  
**Venue:** Buchanan D222

**Instructor:** Jordan Dodd  
**Office:** Buchanan D305  
**Email:** jdodd@mail.ubc.ca  
**Office hours:** Tuesdays 11:15am-  
-12:15pm and via Zoom by appt.

## **1. Course description**

This course is an advanced introduction to the philosophy of language.

In Units 1 and 2, we will survey a number of major theories in the philosophy of language. These theories are attempts to answer some of the core questions in the philosophy of language, such as: What is the function of language? What gives the meaning of any particular word? What is it for a linguistic expression to have meaning? The purpose of Units 1 and 2 is for you to get a solid grounding in many of the centrepieces of research in the philosophy of language.

In Unit 3, we will read essays on topics that, in various ways, concern philosophical issues about language in cognition. We will look at questions about language in thought (e.g., 'Is language nothing more than a means for expressing thoughts?'), about figurative speech (e.g., 'Do metaphors do something different in kind from literal utterances?'), and about the practices of linguistic agents (e.g., 'What is lying?'). The purpose of Unit 3 is go beyond the major theories arc of the first units and explore some of the research that comprises and connects with recent work in the philosophy of language.

## **2. Texts**

We will use both a textbook and many journal articles. But there's nothing to buy. All readings will be linked to through Canvas.

## **3. Course Requirements**

The marking scheme is:  
80% Tests – 3 tests, each worth 26.67%  
10% Mini-papers (see below)  
10% Attendance (see below)

### ***Tests***

There will be three tests:

**Test#1** – on Unit 1 – will be in class on Tuesday, February 6

**Test#2** – on Unit 2 – will be in class on Thursday, March 14

**Test#3** – on Unit 3 – will be a take-home exam, due on Friday, April 26

### ***Mini-papers***

Six mini-papers (each max. 250 words) are required. These are brief critical discussions of theses or arguments in the assigned readings.

You have some flexibility about when to hand in mini-papers. But this flexibility is only within the following framework:

- (1) Each of your mini-papers must be on a different reading.
- (2) You must hand in your mini-paper at the start of a class in which we are scheduled to address the reading that your mini-paper addresses.

Mini-papers will not be accepted electronically.

See the Canvas handout on mini-papers for this course for more information about them (e.g., their content, their structure, how they're marked, etc.).

### ***Attendance***

The attendance mark is *all or nothing*. The rubric is as follows:

There are 23 classes in the semester (and, additionally, both the first ('meet and greet') class of the semester and the two classes where tests are scheduled).

- If you attend at least 19 of those 23 classes, you get the 10% attendance mark.
- If you do not attend at least 19 of those 23 classes, you get 0% as your attendance mark.

If any class is cancelled, I will count everyone as attending that class.

### **4. Make-up tests**

Make-up tests will only be available in the case of documented medical reasons for missing the original test.

### **5. Academic misconduct**

There will be serious repercussions if I believe that you cheated during any of the tests. Disciplinary proceedings will commence immediately and as per UBC's prescribed protocols. Make sure that you're familiar with UBC's standards for student conduct and discipline (<http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/Vancouver/index.cfm?tree=3,54,0,0>).

### **6. Feedback**

The university will ask for your feedback on this course at the end of the semester. That sort of feedback is important. But it doesn't help me change things on the fly – that is, in ways that will help you, as opposed to helping future students.

So give me feedback: after class, via email, at office hours, around campus, whenever. Tell me that I should go faster or slower on certain material, that our discussion of such and such wasn't clear, etc. – or that you think we're going a good speed, our discussion of such and such topic was clear, etc. Either way, feedback is very welcome and encouraged!