

Course Syllabus

Course : PHI 4220 - Philosophy of Language- Spring 2012

Place: Ziff Education Bldg 110=

Time : MWF 01:00 p.m- 1:50 p.m

Instructor: Dr. Kiriake Xerohemona

Office: DM 335

Office Phone:(305) 348-7563; (305) 348-2185

E – Mail: xerohemo@fiu.edu

Web Page: www.fiu.edu/~xerohemo [to be available shortly]

Moodle Login: <https://ecampus.fiu.edu/>

Office Hours: MWF 02:00 -03:00 pm, and by appointment.

Course Description:

This course is an introduction to the philosophy of language. Philosophy of language has been one of the dominant areas of philosophy in analytic philosophy. Philosophy of language concerns the relations between language, thought, and the world. It encompasses a variety of topics, including meaning, sense, reference, definite descriptions, proper names, propositions, propositional attitudes, truth, assertion, translation, speech acts, and the nature of language. The topics covered in this course center around some central issues in the philosophy of language such as the concepts of meaning, reference, and truth, their interconnections and the philosophical problems they raise.

Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes:

The purpose of this course is to critically introduce students to some of the central issues in the philosophy of language. More specifically the course will introduce students to the most influential philosophical theories about meaning, and reference, present students with puzzles concerning those key concepts and investigate their influence on contemporary philosophy.

Throughout the course students are expected to explain and critically evaluate the arguments in question, explain and analyze the pertinent concepts, and develop and defend theses through argumentation and presentation of evidence. Upon successful completion of this course the student should have a firm understanding of some of the central issues in the philosophy of language, a clear sense of how the concepts of meaning, reference, and truth are connected, and a better philosophical understanding of the nature of language.

Course Requirements:

- Students are expected to attend class regularly, participate in class discussions, listening to the class discussion, complete reading assignments, and requirements on time. If you miss more than 3 classes, your grade will be lowered.

- **Term Paper** - All students must write a term paper. The paper must be about 10 pages in length, typed, double-spaced, on a relevant topic of your choice. The paper is due on April 14, 2012, at turnitin.com. **Please meet with me well in advance with your paper proposal. The proposal should be about 1 page in length, and should explain the nature of the issue that the paper will address, outline the main arguments at issue, and list the relevant readings.**
- **Presentation** - All students must make a class presentation. The presentation can be on the student's paper subject. Presentations should be between 10 and 15 minutes in length, leaving time for questions and discussions. The presentations will start on March 19th, 2012.
- **Midterm and a Final Exam**
- **Shorter Assignment on Philosophy of Language** - Pick one or two assigned readings from the textbook, and write a short analysis that will include an accurate presentation of the arguments presented as well as critical evaluation of those arguments. In other words, the short paper must state what is the most important point in the readings, why you think is important. The assignment must be typewritten, double-spaced and approximately 2 to 4 pages in length.

Textbook – Required :

- (1) A. P. Martinich, editor, *The Philosophy of Language*, Oxford University Press, 2008, fifth edition.
- (2) Selection of Core readings. Core readings will be either distributed in class or at Moodle at: <https://ecampus.fiu.edu/>.

Grading :

- (1) First Exam (20%): Friday February 10th, 2012.
- (2) Short Assignment on Philosophy of Language (15%): Due March 2nd, in class.
- (3) Research Paper (25%): Due April 13th, 2012, at turnitin.com
- (4) Final Exam (20%): April 23rd, 12:00 p.m -2:00 p.m.
- (5) Individual Presentations and Class Participation (20%): March 19th, 2012

Grading Scale :

92-100A, 88-91 *A*⁻, 84-87 *B*⁺, 80-83 B, 76-79 *B*⁻, 72-75 *C*⁺, 68-71 C, 64-67 *C*⁻, 60-63 *D*⁺, 56-59 D, 52-55 *D*⁻, 0-51 F.

Policy on Make – Up Exams, Plagiarism and Incompletes :

- Students who resort to any form of academic dishonesty such as cheating or plagiarizing will receive an **“F” for the course**, and will be brought before the appropriate disciplinary body.
- An incomplete will not be assigned simply because work is late, or because the student has not performed well in the assignments.

Tentative Schedule: Weekly Schedule, Updates on Reading Assignments and Reading Assignments will be available on moodle. To login to moodle, use your *FIUMyAccounts* user name and password and go to <https://ecampus.fiu.edu/>

Turnitin – Instructions:

- (1) Go to www.turnitin.com.
- (2) Click on “Create a user profile.” Follow the on-screen instructions. In order to create a profile, you will need a class id and enrollment password.
class id: 4701860
enrolment password: phi4220spr12
- (3) Click the class name to submit your paper. You can submit a paper in two ways:
 - [a]. by file upload (used to submit a paper as a computer file; currently accepted submissions are in Microsoft Word, WordPerfect, RTF, PDF, PostScript, and HTML formats) or
 - [b] by cut and paste.
- (4) Click submit. After submitting your paper you will receive a digital receipt. From this screen, you can resubmit your paper, or proceed to your class portfolio to view the submission. Click the portfolio icon to return to your class portfolio and view your submission.
- (5) Viewing Your Submissions: After you submit a paper, it will appear in your class portfolio next to its assignment. Every paper you submit can be viewed online by clicking on its title in your portfolio. You can download a paper to your computer in file format by clicking on the file icon.
- (6) If you try to submit your paper after 11.59 pm, you’ll get an error message, and your paper will not receive full credit.