

**THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY
Course Outline**

**Phil 4210G/Phil 9614B/Ling 9453B
“Survey of Philosophy of Language”**

Winter Term 2019

Instructor: Robert J. Stainton

Class Days and Hours: Tu 2:30-5:30

Office: StH 3126

Office Hours: Tu 1:00-2:00

Classroom: StH 1140 [Tentative]

Phone: 519-661-2111 ext. 82757

Web Site:

Email: rstainto@uwo.ca

<http://publish.uwo.ca/~rstainto/>

DESCRIPTION

A survey of foundational and highly influential texts in Analytic Philosophy of Language. Emphasis will be on three topics: contrasting conceptions of linguistic meaning; the semantics-pragmatics boundary; and two case studies (namely, definite descriptions and metaphor).

TEXTS

Required: Maite Ezcurdia & Robert J. Stainton (eds.)(2013). *The Semantics-Pragmatics Boundary in Philosophy*. Broadview Press.

Recommended for “newbies”: Robert J. Stainton (1996). *Philosophical Perspectives on Language*. Broadview Press.

OBJECTIVES

The twin objectives are honing of philosophical skills and enriching students’ familiarity with some “touchstone” material in contemporary Analytic Philosophy of Language. In terms of skills, the emphasis will be on: professional-level philosophical writing; close reading of notoriously challenging texts; methodological reflection; and resp;

Glossary: 15%
Final Exam: 25%
Class Participation: 10%

COURSE READINGS

I. Four Approaches to Meaning

A. Reference and Truth Conditions

Gottlob Frege (1892), "On Sense and Reference"

Bertrand Russell (1919), "Descriptions"

[Not reprinted in textbook]

B. Use Theory

J.L. Austin (1956), "Performative Utterances"

Peter F. Strawson (1950), "On Referring"

C. Dynamic Semantics

Robert C. Stalnaker (1978), "Assertion"

David Lewis (1979), "Scorekeeping in a Language Game"

D. Mentalistic Semantics

Dan Sperber and Deirdre Wilson

Donald Davidson (1978), “What Metaphors Mean”
Catherine Wearing, “Metaphor and What Is Said” (2006)

AUDIT

Students wishing to audit the course should consult with the instructor prior to or during the first week of classes.

DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY POLICIES

The **Department of Philosophy Policies** which govern the conduct, standards, and expectations for student participation in Philosophy courses is available in the Undergraduate section of the Department of Philosophy website at <http://uwo.ca/philosophy/undergraduate/policies.html>. It is your responsibility to understand the policies set out by the Senate and the Department of Philosophy, and thus ignorance of these policies cannot be used as grounds of appeal.

ACCOMMODATION

Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments worth 10% or more of their final grade must apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department. Documentation shall be submitted, as soon as possible, to the Office of the Dean of the student’s Faculty of registration, together with a request for relief specifying the nature of the accommodation being requested. The UWO Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness and further information regarding this policy can be found at [ht](#)

hours) or (519) 433-2023 after class hours and on weekends.