

WESTERN UNIVERSITY
Department of Philosophy
Undergraduate Course Outline 2024-25

PHILOSOP 2260F-001
Introduction to Philosophy of Language

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Information including instructor contact details and course location can be found on the course Owl BrightSpace: <https://westernu.brightspace.com/>

PREREQUISITE CHECKING

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course begins with a brief overview of differing theories about what languages are. This is followed by a traditional look at issues central to the philosophy of language in the 20th century including reference, meaning, speech acts, and metaphor. Alternative perspectives to these views are then presented from feminist and indigenous philosophers. Finally, how languages influence our thinking and identity are considered.

Topics

Unit 1 Reference, Text chapters 1-4	Sept. 6-27
Unit 2 Meaning, Text chapters 5-10	Oct. 2-25
Unit 3 Pragmatics and Use, Text chapters 11-13, 15	Oct. 30- Nov. 8
Unit 4 Alternative Perspectives, readings provided	Nov. 13- Dec. 6

LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Improve critical reading and writing skills.
2. Learn different theories about what languages are.
3. Learn the main views in 20th century philosophy of language.
4. Understand contemporary critiques and alternative approaches to studying language.
5. Study the role of language in shaping our thinking and identity.

TEXTS

Lycan, W. (2019). *Philosophy of Language: A Contemporary Introduction*. 3rd Edition. Taylor and Francis.

Readings for Unit 4 will be available online.

METHOD OF EVALUATION

Essay 1 (900-1200 words)	33.3 %
Essay 2 (900-1200 words)	33.3 %
Essay 3 (900-1200 words)	33.3 %

Essays will be assigned each Friday beginning Sept. 13 and ending Nov. 29. Essays are due two weeks after they are assigned except for the Essay 11 assigned Nov. 29 which is due in one week on Dec. 6 since all term work must be submitted by the last day of classes, Dec. 6, 2024. The late penalty is 5% per day including weekends to a maximum penalty of 25%. Students are required to complete 3 of the 11 assigned essays to give flexibility and choice of topic. To ensure a comprehensive assessment, the three essays must be submitted from different units. Students may submit a fourth essay (one from each unit) and the three highest grades will count for their final mark.

The link below outlines the university policy for academic consideration.

https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/academic_consideration_Sep24.pdf

DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY POLICIES

The Department of Philosophy policies that govern the conduct, standards, and expectations for student participation in Philosophy courses are available in the Undergraduate section of the Department of Philosophy website <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.

AUDIT

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

STATEMENT ON THE USE OF GENERATIVE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI)

"If plagiarism or unauthorized AI use is suspected, the instructor will ask for research notes and/or drafts of assignments after the assignment has been submitted. Students must keep all

1. Requests for academic consideration are made to the Academic Advising office of Faculty in which the student is registered.

2. Requests for academic consideration include the following components:

- a. Self-attestation signed by the student;
- b. Indication of the course(s) and assessment(s) relevant to the request;
- c. Supporting documentation as relevant

Requests without supporting documentation are limited to one per term per course.

SCHOLASTIC OFFENCES

Scholastic offences are taken seriously, and students are directed to read the appropriate