

## 25515 - The philosophy of language

### Syllabus Information

**Academic Year:** 2019/20

**Subject:** 25515 - The philosophy of language

**Faculty / School:** 103 - Facultad de Filosofía y Letras

**Degree:** 269 - Degree in Philosophy  
587 - Degree in Philosophy

**ECTS:** 6.0

**Year:** 2

**Semester:** Second semester

**Subject Type:** Compulsory

**Module:** ---

### 1.General information

#### 1.1.Aims of the course

#### 1.2.Context and importance of this course in the degree

#### 1.3.Recommendations to take this course

### 2.Learning goals

#### 2.1.Competences

#### 2.2.Learning goals

#### 2.3.Importance of learning goals

### 3.Assessment (1st and 2nd call)

#### 3.1.Assessment tasks (description of tasks, marking system and assessment criteria)

### 4.Methodology, learning tasks, syllabus and resources

#### 4.1.Methodological overview

See "Learning tasks " and "Syllabus".

More information will be provided on the first day of class.

#### 4.2.Learning tasks

This is a 6 ECTS course organized as follows:

- Lectures.
- Practice sessions.
- Autonomous work and study.
- Assessment tasks.

#### 4.3.Syllabus

The course will address the following topics:

##### WEEK 1

- Course overview. Introduction to the course syllabus.

- **Topic 1.** Philosophy of language, analytic philosophy and linguistic philosophy. Reading: T. Williamson, 'Past the linguistic turn?'

#### WEEK 2

- **Topic 2.** Basic concepts and distinctions. Reading: Plato, *Cratylus*
- **Topic 3.** Meaning and reference I: Stuart Mill

WEEK 3. **Topic 4.** Meaning and reference II: Frege. Reading: Frege, 'On sense and Nominatum?'

WEEK 4. **Topic 5.** Meaning and reference III: Russell. Reading: Russell, 'On denoting?'

WEEK 5. **Topic 6.** Meaning and reference IV: Strawson and Donnellan. Reading: Strawson, 'On referring?'

WEEK 6. **Topic 7.** Meaning and reference V: Kripke, Putnam. Reading: Kripke, 'Identity and necessity?'; Putnam, 'Meaning and reference?'

WEEK 7. **Topic 8.** Meaning and verification, two dogmas; the indeterminacy of translation. Reading: Quine, 'Two dogmas of empiricism?', *Words and Objects* (ch. 2)

WEEK 8. **Topic 9.** Truth-conditional theories of meaning: Donald Davidson. Reading: 'Truth and meaning?'

WEEK 9. **Topic 10.** Meaning and Intention: P. Grice. Readings: Grice, 'Meaning?'; 'Logic and conversation?'

WEEK 10. **Topic 11.** Speech acts: Austin and Searle. Readings: Austin, 'Performative Utterances?'; Searle, 'The Structure of Illocutionary Acts?'

WEEK 11. **Topic 12.** Meaning and communication: Bach and Harnish. Readings: Strawson, 'Intention and convention in speech acts'; Bach, 'Speech acts and Pragmatics?'

WEEK 12. **Topic 13.** Relevance theory: Sperber and Wilson. Readings: Sperber & Wilson, 'Précis of *Relevance: Communication and Cognition*,?'

WEEK 13. **Topic 14.** Meaning and Use: Rules, games of language and life-forms: Wittgenstein. Reading: Wittgenstein, *Philosophical Investigations* (excerpts)

WEEK 14. **Topic 15.** Normativity and Meaning Skepticism. Reading: Kripke, *Wittgenstein on Rules and Private Language* (Chapters 1-3)

#### 4.4.Course planning and calendar

Further information concerning the timetable, classroom, office hours, assessment dates and other details regarding this course, will be provided on the first day of class or please refer to the Faculty of Philosophy and Arts website (academic calendar: <http://academico.unizar.es/calendario-academico/calendario>, timetable: <https://fyl.unizar.es/horario-de-clases#overlay-context=horario-de-clases>; assessment dates: <https://fyl.unizar.es/calendario-de-examenes#overlay-context=>)

#### 4.5.Bibliography and recommended resources