

## PHIL 3321: Philosophy of Language

Spring 2018

**Instructor:** Daniel Giberman

**Office Number:** Carlisle 310

**Philosophy Department Telephone Number:** 817-272-2764

**Email Address:** daniel.giberman@uta.edu

**Office Hours:** by appointment

**Faculty Profile:** <http://www.uta.edu/profiles/daniel%20-giberman>

**Section Information:** 001

**Time and Place of Class Meetings:** Tues./Thurs. 12:30-1:50, Trimble 101

**Description of Course Content:** This course is a non-exhaustive survey of topics central to contemporary analytic philosophy of language and its beginnings: meaning, reference, names, definite descriptions, attitude ascriptions, truth, modality, demonstratives, vagueness, and the relationship between semantics and pragmatics. Readings include work by, *inter alia*, Frege, Russell, Quine, Grice, Kripke, Kaplan, and Graff Fara. Evaluation will consist of a midterm examination, a short “term” paper, and a final examination, on each of which students will be assessed for conceptual clarity, communicative economy, and critical reasoning.

**Student Learning Outcomes:** Students will gain mastery of core debates in contemporary analytic philosophy of language through discussion and assignments that will bolster their skills of argumentation; of clear thought, speech, and writing; and of penetrating yet charitable critical analysis. Students also will be exposed to ways in which core philosophy of language overlaps foundational and certain specialized issues in related areas of philosophy and, to a lesser extent, extra-philosophical endeavors.

### **Required Textbook:**

A.P. Martinich and D. Sosa (Eds.) *Philosophy of Language* (6<sup>th</sup> Ed.) Oxford University Press, 2012.

- Be sure to get the 6<sup>th</sup> edition

### **Descriptions of major assignments and examinations:**

Midterm (multiple choice, short answer, essay)

Final (similar to midterm)

2000 word “term paper”

- Students choose an argument or debate from the course readings to analyze
- First draft due Apr. 3<sup>rd</sup>
- Final draft due May 1<sup>st</sup>

**Attendance:** Students are expected to come to every lecture on time and fully prepared by having thoroughly and carefully read the assigned text(s) for that lecture (see below section on expectations for out-of-class study). That said, I do not plan to take attendance, though students should note below that participation can affect one’s final course grade. University students are adults and tuition is expensive. If it’s not worth it *to* someone to show up, it’s not worth it *for* him or her to show up. That said, I will give pop quizzes from time to time to ensure that students are actively engaging the material.

**No Screened Devices:** Students are not allowed to use screened devices (laptops, tablets, phones, etc.) during lecture. Exceptions will be made only for students who have an independently established need to use such devices for learning purposes (e.g. students with disability documentation).

**Grading:**

Midterm: 20% - 25%

Final: 35%

Paper: 40%

Participation: 0% - 5%

**Expectations for Out-of-Class Study:** Students should prepare for each lecture by giving each text at least two hours of careful reading, i.e. focused, sustained, and perhaps repeated reading in a quiet setting with questions and objections noted. Students should expect to spend at least 15-20 hours *outside class* on each of the draft and final versions of the paper, and another 15-20 preparing for each exam. These estimates are in addition to the time required to read the course material in preparation for each lecture.

**Note on Out-of-Class Group Work:** Students are welcome to form study groups if desired. However, each individual must complete and submit his or her own paper and exams.

**Schedule**

(Read each reading carefully and completely before the lecture given on the corresponding date)

Jan. 16: Introduction (no preparatory reading)

Jan. 18: Martinich and Sosa's Introduction, pp. 1-8 & 18-26 (so skip 9-17)

Jan. 23: J. Locke, "Of Words" from his *Essay Concerning Human Understanding* (MS 43)  
L. Wittgenstein, selection from his *Philosophical Investigations* (MS 44)

Jan. 25: D. Lewis, "Languages and Language" (MS 46)

Jan. 30: J.S. Mill, "Of Names" (MS 1)

Feb. 1: G. Frege, "On Sense and Reference" (MS 2)

Feb. 6: G. Frege, "The Thought" (MS 27)

Feb. 8: J. Searle, "Proper Names" (MS 3)

Feb. 13: Giberman out of town (read Evans "The Causal Theory of Names" MS 6)  
➤ Write a 150 word abstract of Evans's paper. Submit a hard copy at Feb. 20 lecture.

Feb. 15: Giberman out of town (read Russell's "On Denoting" at least twice!)

Feb. 20: B. Russell, "On Denoting", "Descriptions" (MS 8 & 9)

Feb. 22: P.F. Strawson, "On Referring" (MS 10)

Feb. 27: S. Kripke, N&N (MS 4)

Mar. 1: S. Kripke, N&N (pdf)

Mar. 6: Review for midterm

Mar. 8 MIDTERM EXAM

Spring Break

Mar. 20: W.V.O. Quine, "Quantifiers and Propositional Attitudes" (MS 14)

Mar. 22: S. Kripke, "A Puzzle About Belief" (MS 18)

Mar. 27: S. Schiffer, "Belief Ascription" (MS 20)

Mar. 29: M. Crimmins and J. Perry, "The Prince and the Phone Booth" (jstor)

Apr. 3: R. Stalnaker, "Assertion" and "Possible Worlds" (MS 35 and jstor)

Apr. 5: S. Kripke, N&N on modality (pdf)

Apr. 10: D. Kaplan, "Demonstratives" (MS 36)

Apr. 12: J. Perry, "The Problem of the Essential Indexical" (MS 37)

Apr. 17: P. Grice, "Meaning" and J.L. Austin "Performative Utterances" (MS 21 & 22)

Apr. 19: P. Grice, "Logic and Conversation" (MS 24)

Apr. 24: D. Graff Fara, "Shifting Sands: An Interest-Relative Theory of Vagueness"

Apr. 26: Z. Zsabo, on semantics/pragmatics distinction (pdf)

May 1: Wrap-up

May 3: Review for final

[FINAL EXAM is on May 10<sup>th</sup>, 11am – 1:30.]

*Note: I reserve the right to adjust the contents of this syllabus to accord with educational goals as I see fit.*

## University Policies:

**Attendance:** At The University of Texas at Arlington, taking attendance is not required but attendance is a critical indicator in student success. Each faculty member is free to develop his or her own methods of evaluating students' academic performance, which includes establishing course-specific policies on attendance. However, while UT Arlington does not require instructors to take attendance in their courses, the U.S. Department of Education requires that the University have a mechanism in place to mark when Federal Student Aid recipients "begin attendance in a course." UT Arlington instructors will report when students begin attendance in a course as part of the final grading process. Specifically, when assigning a student a grade of F, faculty report the last date a student attended their class based on evidence such as a test, participation in a class project or presentation, or an engagement online via Blackboard. This date is reported to the Department of Education for federal financial aid recipients.

**Drop Policy:** Students may drop or swap (adding and dropping a class concurrently) classes through self-service in MyMav from the beginning of the registration period through the late registration period. After the late registration period, students must see their academic advisor to drop a class or withdraw. Undeclared students must see an advisor in the University Advising Center. Drops can continue through a point two-thirds of the way through the term or session. It is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw if they do not plan to attend after registering. **Students will not be automatically dropped for non-attendance.** Repayment of certain types of financial aid administered through the University may be required as the result of dropping classes or withdrawing. For more information, contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships (<http://www.uta.edu/aao/fao/>).

**Disability Accommodations:** UT Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of all federal equal opportunity legislation, including *The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)*, *The Americans with Disabilities Amendments Act (ADAAA)*, and *Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act*. All instructors at UT Arlington are required by law to provide "reasonable accommodations" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of disability. Students are responsible for providing the instructor with official notification in the form of a **letter certified** by the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD). Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Students experiencing a range of conditions (Physical, Learning, Chronic Health, Mental Health, and Sensory) that may cause diminished academic performance or other barriers to learning may seek services and/or accommodations by contacting: **The Office for Students with Disabilities, (OSD)** [www.uta.edu/disability](http://www.uta.edu/disability) or calling 817-272-3364. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at [www.uta.edu/disability](http://www.uta.edu/disability).

**Counseling and Psychological Services, (CAPS)** [www.uta.edu/caps/](http://www.uta.edu/caps/) or calling 817-272-3671 is also available to all students to help increase their understanding of personal issues, address mental and behavioral health problems and make positive changes in their lives.

**Non-Discrimination Policy:** *The University of Texas at Arlington does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation, disabilities, genetic information, and/or veteran status in its educational programs or activities it operates. For more information, visit [uta.edu/eos](http://uta.edu/eos).*

**Title IX Policy:** The University of Texas at Arlington ("University") is committed to maintaining a learning and working environment that is free from discrimination based on sex in accordance with Title IX of the Higher Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in educational programs or activities; Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VII), which prohibits sex discrimination in employment; and the Campus Sexual Violence Elimination Act (SaVE Act). Sexual misconduct is a form of sex discrimination and will not be tolerated. *For information regarding Title IX, visit [www.uta.edu/titleIX](http://www.uta.edu/titleIX) or contact Ms. Jean Hood, Vice President and Title IX Coordinator at (817) 272-7091 or [jmhood@uta.edu](mailto:jmhood@uta.edu).*

**Academic Integrity:** Students enrolled all UT Arlington courses are expected to adhere to the UT Arlington Honor Code:

*I pledge, on my honor, to uphold UT Arlington's tradition of academic integrity, a tradition that values hard work and honest effort in the pursuit of academic excellence.*

*I promise that I will submit only work that I personally create or contribute to group collaborations, and I will appropriately reference any work from other sources. I will follow the highest standards of integrity and uphold the spirit of the Honor Code.*

UT Arlington faculty members may employ the Honor Code in their courses by having students acknowledge the honor code as part of an examination or requiring students to incorporate the honor code into any work submitted. Per UT System *Regents' Rule* 50101, §2.2, suspected violations of university's standards for academic integrity (including the Honor Code) will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Violators will be disciplined in accordance with University policy, which may result in the student's suspension or expulsion from the University. Additional information is available at <https://www.uta.edu/conduct/>.

**Electronic Communication:** UT Arlington has adopted MavMail as its official means to communicate with students about important deadlines and events, as well as to transact university-related business regarding financial aid, tuition, grades, graduation, etc. All students are assigned a MavMail account and are responsible for checking the inbox regularly. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, which remains active even after graduation. Information about activating and using MavMail is available at <http://www.uta.edu/oit/cs/email/mavmail.php>.

**Campus Carry:** Effective August 1, 2016, the Campus Carry law (Senate Bill 11) allows those licensed individuals to carry a concealed handgun in buildings on public university campuses, except in locations the University establishes as prohibited. Under the new law, openly carrying handguns is not allowed on college campuses. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/news/info/campus-carry/>

**Student Feedback Survey:** At the end of each term, students enrolled in face-to-face and online classes categorized as “lecture,” “seminar,” or “laboratory” are directed to complete an online Student Feedback Survey (SFS). Instructions on how to access the SFS for this course will be sent directly to each student through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. Each student’s feedback via the SFS database is aggregated with that of other students enrolled in the course. Students’ anonymity will be protected to the extent that the law allows. UT Arlington’s effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback is required by state law and aggregate results are posted online. Data from SFS is also used for faculty and program evaluations. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/sfs>.

**Final Review Week:** for semester-long courses, a period of five class days prior to the first day of final examinations in the long sessions shall be designated as Final Review Week. The purpose of this week is to allow students sufficient time to prepare for final examinations. During this week, there shall be no scheduled activities such as required field trips or performances; and no instructor shall assign any themes, research problems or exercises of similar scope that have a completion date during or following this week *unless specified in the class syllabus*. During Final Review Week, an instructor shall not give any examinations constituting 10% or more of the final grade, except makeup tests and laboratory examinations. In addition, no instructor shall give any portion of the final examination during Final Review Week. During this week, classes are held as scheduled. In addition, instructors are not required to limit content to topics that have been previously covered; they may introduce new concepts as appropriate.

**Emergency Exit Procedures:** Should we experience an emergency event that requires us to vacate the building, students should exit the room and move toward the nearest exit. When exiting the building during an emergency, one should never take an elevator but should use the stairwells. Faculty members and instructional staff will assist students in selecting the safest route for evacuation and will make arrangements to assist individuals with disabilities.

**Student Support Services:** UT Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. Resources include [tutoring](#), [major-based learning centers](#), developmental education, [advising and mentoring](#), personal counseling, and [federally funded programs](#). For individualized referrals, students may visit the reception desk at University College (Ransom Hall), call the Maverick Resource Hotline at 817-272-6107, send a message to [resources@uta.edu](mailto:resources@uta.edu), or view the information at <http://www.uta.edu/universitycollege/resources/index.php>.