

## PHILOSOPHY OF LANGUAGE

PHIL354 (A01)

Philosophy of language concerns meaning, reference, and communication, and has massively influenced recent philosophy. This intermediate course surveys: names, descriptions, kind terms, indexicals, ascriptions, conversation, truth, and meaning.

**PREREQUISITES** PHIL203 + 3 units of philosophy, or permission.

**INSTRUCTOR** Dr. Mike Raven (✉ [raven@uvic.ca](mailto:raven@uvic.ca) • 📄 [raven.site](#))  
**OFFICE HOURS** • via Zoom Mon/Thu 2:30-3:30PM or by appointment on weekdays.

**LMS** 📄 [bright.uvic.ca/d2l/home/50948](http://bright.uvic.ca/d2l/home/50948) (Consult for updates and current course documents.)  
SSO / @uvic.ca credentials required for ZOOM, recommended for [LMS](#) and email.

**INSTRUCTION** Remote instruction with asynchronous (⇄) and synchronous (⌚) components.  
⌚ Class meetings are held on Wednesdays 3:30-6:20PM on ZOOM:  
📄 [www.uvic.ca/systems/services/avmultimedia/zoomvideoconferencing/index.php](http://www.uvic.ca/systems/services/avmultimedia/zoomvideoconferencing/index.php)  
⇄ Recordings available next day on 📄 [KALTURA MEDIA GALLERY](#).

**TEXTS** **REQUIRED (purchase)** 📄 Kripke, *Naming and Necessity* (Harvard)  
**REQUIRED (free online)** 📄 [Lycan, \*The Philosophy of Language, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition\*](#) (Routledge)  
**OPTIONAL (purchase)** 📄 Martinich & Sosa, *The Philosophy of Language, 6<sup>th</sup> edition* (Oxford)

### EVALUATION

**RUBRIC** Grades (📄 [UVic's scale](#)) you earn are determined by the philosophical craftsmanship of your work for this course according to the **RUBRIC**: 📄 [raven.site/teaching/Rubric.pdf](http://raven.site/teaching/Rubric.pdf)

**WORK** 📄 **ESSAYS** [2/3] ⇄ By the levels system, to be submitted prior to a MILESTONE.  
📄 [raven.site/teaching/Levels System.pdf](http://raven.site/teaching/Levels System.pdf)  
☑ **CHECKPOINTS** [1/6] ⇄ Best 8 of 10 short online assignments.  
🕒 **ENGAGEMENT** [1/6] By online forum (⇄) or “in-class” videoconference (⌚).  
📄 [raven.site/teaching/Engagement.pdf](http://raven.site/teaching/Engagement.pdf)

**GRACE POINTS** A **grace point** delays an essay due date by 1 day. May be used in any combination without justification. Students start with 5 and cannot reuse, trade, or earn any.

**LATENESS** Work submitted after a due date will *not* be accepted (see **ACCESSIBILITY** for exceptions).

### POLICIES

**CONDUCT** Enrolling binds you to a social contract with your instructor and classmates:

- **Be prepared.** Consult course documents. Read assigned text before class.
- **Be engaged.** Attend class. Use office hours and tutorials.
- **Be respectful.** Don't bully or distract others (mute mic, avoid excess chats).
- **Be professional.** Check sources first. Follow etiquette. Allow ≥1 day for replies.

**ACCESSIBILITY** Arrange accommodations with [CAL](#). Other accommodations (e.g. extra credit, extensions, alternate/makeup work) will *not* be considered, except by instructor's discretion for extraordinary cases (e.g. *not* computer/wi-fi problems) and when the request and any needed documentation are received within 3 days of the due date.

**GUESTS** Guests permitted only with instructor's prior consent.

**INTEGRITY** Plagiarism, cheating, and submitting others' work is an academic integrity violation. Ignorance is no excuse. Familiarize yourself with what academic integrity is:  
📄 [www.uvic.ca/current-students/home/academics/academic-integrity/](http://www.uvic.ca/current-students/home/academics/academic-integrity/)

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**SCHEDULE**

Read all assigned readings *before* each class (including JAN 13). Consult [LMS](#) for updates.  
Readings available in the Martinich & Sosa anthology are marked (●).

**INTRO**

⌚ JAN 13	• Frege, "On Sense and Reference"	} ■ Lycan, ch.1 & ch.5
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**DESCRIPTIONS**

⌚ JAN 20	• <a href="#">Russell, "On Denoting"</a>	} ■ Lycan, 9-22,31-38
	• <a href="#">Strawson, "On Referring"</a>	
⌚ JAN 27	• <a href="#">Donnellan, "Reference and Definite Descriptions"</a>	} ■ Lycan, 22-30
	• <a href="#">Kripke, "Speaker's Reference and Semantic Reference"</a>	
↕ JAN 29	✦ MILESTONE 1	

**NAMES**

⌚ FEB 3	◆ Kripke, <i>Naming and Necessity</i> , Lecture I-II	} ■ Lycan, 38-42, 45-61
⌚ FEB 10	◆ Kripke, <i>Naming and Necessity</i> , Lecture III	
	• <a href="#">Putnam, "Meaning and Reference"</a>	} ■ Lycan, 61-66
↕ FEB 12	✦ MILESTONE 2	
⌚ FEB 24	• Kripke, "A Puzzle about Belief"	

**INDEXICALS**

⌚ MAR 3	• <a href="#">Kaplan, "Demonstratives"</a> , I-VI, IX, XI, XIII, XIV	} ■ Lycan, ch.11
	• <a href="#">Perry, "The Problem of the Essential Indexical"</a>	
↕ MAR 5	✦ MILESTONE 3	

**CONVERSATION**

⌚ MAR 10	• Grice, "Logic and Conversation"	} ■ Lycan, ch.13
⌚ MAR 17	• Stalnaker, "Assertion"	
	◆ Kripke, <i>Naming and Necessity</i> , 54-56, 97-116	} ■ Lycan, 129-132
↕ MAR 19	✦ MILESTONE 4	

**MEANING**

⌚ MAR 24	• <a href="#">Grice, "Meaning"</a>	} ■ Lycan, ch.7
	◆ Searle, "What is a Speech Act?"	
	◆ Platts, <i>Ways of Meaning</i> , 86-94	
⌚ MAR 31	• <a href="#">Tarski, "The Semantic Conception of Truth"</a> , §§1-13	} ■ Lycan, ch.9,132-138
	• <a href="#">Davidson, "Truth and Meaning"</a>	
↕ APR 2	✦ MILESTONE 5	

**LANGUAGE**

⌚ APR 7	• Kripke, "On Rules and Private Language"	} ■ Lycan, ch.13
	◆ <a href="#">Millikan, "Truth Rules, Hoverflies, and the Kripke-Wittgenstein Paradox"</a>	
↕ APR 16	✦ MILESTONE 6	