Phil of Language

PHI 6226 Spring 2026
Prof. Ray

PHI 6226 - Syllabus

Philosophy of language examines the phenomenon of language and seeks to understand it in its relations to the world and to human thought and communication. But many of the major contributors to this discourse were centrally concerned with language specifically in its relation to thought, reason and logic, not with language as a sociological or cultural phenomenon. In this seminar we will take up a series of issues in the theory of meaning with an eye toward critically interrogating key texts, and solving (or otherwise locating solutions to) those issues.

Course Work:

The work of this course consists in the careful reading and analysis of difficult philosophical texts and participation in seminar discussion. Students will be called on to prepare in-class seminar presentations. A substantive thesis-defense paper will be due at the end of the seminar. Participation (25%), presentations (25%) and term paper (50%).

Course Materials:

All course materials will be made available either via Canvas or companion web site (if applicable). Some course materials may be posted as password protected pdf. In order to open them you need to know a password — which will be given to you in class...

This course does not require a textbook. No books are required or recommended for purchase.

Rules of Engagement:

1) The materials on the Canvas site or companion site (as applicable) do not belong to you. You may not give access to or share them with anyone outside the class. 2) The use in class of any digital device for any unsanctioned or non-class-related purpose (e.g. messaging, surfing, social media, searching the internet for info on a topic) is strictly prohibited. Thank you.

Nota bene:

The use of AI assistance (e.g. ChatGPT) for the production of any work for (or engagement in) this class is generally contrary to the central pedagogical aims of the course. All uses of such AI assistance are unauthorized, unless expressly permitted by the instructor. Violations of this policy will be treated as with any other academic honesty violation.

Plagiarism or other academic honesty violations are not tolerated and will result in i) immediate failure in the course and ii) referral to the Dean of Students for further action. Plagiarism is the presentation of words or ideas that are not your own as if they were your own. *Nota bene*: the use of any (unquoted, unacknowledged) AI-generated text is plagiarism, pure and simple. [Worse, as a general rule, the textual output of LLMs is all patchwork plagiarism to begin with.] All assignments are to be completed on your own. It is your responsibility to know and understand the UF Student Honor Code (http://www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/honorcode.php).

Note for Students with Disabilities:

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the Disability Resource Center. It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

UF General Policy:

Compliance:

This course complies with UF academic policies (https://syllabus.ufl.edu/syllabus-policy/uf-syllabus-policy-links/). The foregoing link will direct you to these official University policies.

Course Evaluation:

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations (https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/). Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester. UF emails students with specific times when they are open. Summary results (https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/) of these assessments are made available to students. UF has specific guidance (https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/) on how to give professional (and respectful) feedback.

Conformality:

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with prevailing university policy (https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx).

Grade Points:

Information on how UF calculates grade points from grades can be found here (https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx).

Minimum Requirement:

Please note that a minimum course grade of C is required to get general education credit for taking it (if this course is a listed Gen Ed class).

University-Wide Academic Policies:

This course complies with all university-wide academic policies. In case of unintended overlap, the University policy rules. Follow this link for more information on these UF Academic Policies (https://go.ufl.edu/syllabuspolicies).

Useful Disclaimer:

Our schedule of topics/readings/assignments are subject to change. So, stay informed as we go along.

Personnel & Contact

- Prof. Greg Ray, 300 FLO
  Class Professor
  gregray.ufl.edu

Office Hours

- Wed 11:45-1:00
- Fri 11:45-2:00
- *But for you, anytime*
- And by appt

Topical Schedule:

- 01/12- Introductory
- 01/26- Indeterminacy
- 02/09- Meaning
- 03/02- Analyticity & Logical Truth
- 03/23- Of Attitudes
- 04/13- [Of Nothing]
- 04/27- Papers Due.