REQUIRED TEXTS

A. P. Martinich, ed.: The Philosophy of Language: Fifth Edition (all page references below are to this book).

David Kaplan: “Demonstratives” (excerpts). Available for download on course website or on e-reserve.

TOPICS AND READINGS

Preliminaries

Topics

Introduction to philosophy of language; basic terms and concepts; review of first-order predicate logic with identity.

Reading

Introduction, pp. 1-28
Tarski: “The Semantic Conception of Truth” §§1-11, pp. 85-93
Handout on Logic
Handout on Translation

Meaning

Introduction to Part I, pp. 32-35
H. P. Grice: “Meaning,” pp. 108-113

Sense and Denotation

Introduction to Part III, pp. 209-216
Gottlob Frege: “The Thought: A Logical Inquiry,” pp. 36-49

Definite Descriptions

Bertrand Russell: “On Denoting,” pp. 230-238
Bertrand Russell: “Descriptions,” pp. 239-245
Bertrand Russell: “Mr. Strawson on Referring,” pp. 261-264
Keith Donnellan: “Reference and Definite Descriptions,” pp. 265-277

Names

Introduction to Part IV, pp. 279-283
Saul Kripke: “Naming and Necessity,” pp. 290-305
John Searle: “Proper Names and Intentionality,” pp. 326-342
Demonstratives and Indexicals
David Kaplan: “Dthat,” pp. 343-356
David Kaplan: “Demonstratives” (excerpts, download from course web site)

Propositional Attitudes
Introduction to Part V, pp. 379-382
W. V. O. Quine: “Quantifiers and Propositional Attitudes,” pp. 383-388
David Kaplan: “Quantifying In,” pp. 399-419
Saul Kripke: “A Puzzle about Belief,” pp. 433-459

Speech Acts
Introduction to Part II, pp. 131-135

WRITTEN WORK
Your grade for this course will be determined by an in-class mid-term exam and a final project, which will be either a take-home exam or a 2500-3500 word (10-12 page) term paper. If you choose the term paper option, the choice of topic is yours, provided that it is related to the issues and philosophers treated in this course. (Check with me if you are in any doubt about whether your topic is appropriate.) Due date for the final project is Monday, December 8.

Study questions for mid-term exam will be made available approximately one week before the exam. The take-home final will be posted not later than December 1. See course web site for details.

Graduate students in philosophy and undergraduates taking the course for (optional) W (writing) credit are required to write a term paper; all others may choose either the paper or take-home exam option.

If you are taking the course for W-credit, you must submit a preliminary draft, proposal, abstract, or outline of the paper by November 13. Your final draft should respond to the comments I give you on the preliminary draft.

IMPORTANT DATES
October 21 Exam questions posted
October 28 Midterm exam
November 13 Preliminary drafts due (paper option, W-credit)
December 1 Final exam questions posted
December 8 Final project due