

# **PHIL-493: *Philosophy of Language*** (Bernd Buldt, S08)

## **Course Description**

### **Contact information**

Office: CM 021

Office hours: Mo, Wed, Fr, 10:00am–11:00am, or by appointment

Phone: (260) 481-6091

E-mail: [buldtb@ipfw.edu](mailto:buldtb@ipfw.edu) (I don't reply to e-mails over the weekend)

### **Course description**

To understand, examine, and critically assess major theories in the philosophy of language.

### **Course objectives**

Upon successful completion of this course, students are expected (transferable skills):

- to have further improved critical reading and writing skills;
- to think and write clearly about issues in the philosophy of language.

Students are expected in particular to:

- identify and discuss different theories about language and examine problems in their light;
- integrate philosophical perspectives on language into an examination of values and beliefs they themselves or others may hold.

### **Course text**

The main text is:

William Lycan: *Philosophy of Language: A Contemporary Introduction*, London: Routledge 1999

Another recommended textbook is:

Michael Morris: *An Introduction to the Philosophy of Language*, Cambridge, CUP 2007.

### **Attendance**

All class sessions take place in KT242. Attendance is required for a successful completion of the course; if you can't attend, you must notify me before class starts. Missing class unexcused three times means you can't receive a better grade than "D;" missing class unexcused five times means you'll receive the grade "F;" two tardinesses or early departures equal one unexcused absence. That attendance is required also means that you are responsible for all material covered in class including handouts, changes in deadlines, and announcements generally. Use of cell phones in class is not permitted.

### **Class participation**

Class participation is expected of everyone as this is a highly exchange-oriented class. The better you prepare the assigned text, the more you'll benefit from class room discussion.

### **Grading policies**

Students will take four written in-class exams and write one final essay; see the syllabus for details. In order to be accepted, the essay must be type written, double-spaced, multiple pages

stapled and consecutively numbered, with the student's name on the top right of the first page. Early submission of draft versions for feedback purposes is strongly encouraged.

Remember: Students are expected to know and to follow all applicable policies on academic honesty; see your student handbook and the bulletin for regulations and policies on academic honesty. All written work must be your own. If you use someone else's words or ideas, these sources must be appropriately cited. **Plagiarism/cheating** will result in an "F" in this class and possibly further disciplinary action by the department, school, and university. The final grade will be determined as follows:

Class participation	20%
Each exam	15%
Final essay	20%

and the following grade scale will be applied (although final grades won't show tendencies):

100%–97%	A+	
96%–93%	A	Excellent
92%–89%	A-	
88%–85%	B+	
84%–81%	B	Good
80%–77%	B-	
76%–73%	C+	
72%–69%	C	Sufficient
68%–65%	C-	
64%–61%	D+	
60%–57%	D	Weak
56%–53%	D-	
below 53%	F	Failure

### **Disabilities statement**

If you have a disability and need assistance, special arrangements can be made to accommodate most needs. Contact the Director of Services for Students with Disabilities (Walb, room 113, telephone number 481-6658), as soon as possible to work out the details. Once the Director has provided you with a letter attesting to your needs for modification, bring the letter to me. For more information, please visit the web site for SSD at <http://www.ipfw.edu/ssd/>.

### **Remark**

Please, remember that your academic success and your personal well-being are important to me. Do not hesitate to contact me, whenever you feel like doing so or something is on your mind.