PHIL3260 - PHILOSOPHY OF LANGUAGE

Course Outline

Course Co-ordinator:  John Wright
Room:  MC113, McMullin Building
Ph:  49 21 5182
Fax:  49 216933
Email:  John.Wright@newcastle.edu.au
Consultation hours:  Tuesdays: 3.00pm to 5.00pm
Semester  Semester 1 - 2006
Unit Weighting  10
Teaching Methods  Lecture

Course Overview:

Brief Course Description
Philosophy of Language has played a crucial role in much recent philosophy. The course surveys this increasingly influential area of philosophy.

Contact Hours
2 hours per week

Learning Materials/Texts

Course Outline Issued and Correct as at: Week 1 Semester 2006-02-08

CTS Download Date: 8/02/06
Course Objectives
(1) Impart to students familiarity with, and knowledge of, the main issues addressed and approaches taken by philosophers, specifically in the area of philosophy of language.
(2) Impart to students critical skills to deal with these issues and employ these approaches in their assessment of their own culture and societal life, and in thinking about their own personal lives.
(3) Develop high level written and oral skills in analysing and presenting philosophical issues.
(4) Develop a capacity to appreciate the philosophical positions involved in how people approach ways of living and in their stance to the world around them.

Course Content
This course covers topics including: theories of meaning, theories of truth and the relations between philosophy and language. The course will conclude with an examination of the arguments for meaning scepticism that have been advanced by some recent contemporary philosophers.

Assessment Items
2 by 2,000 word essays, the first due in week 9, the second at the end of semester.

Assumed Knowledge
10 units of PHIL courses at 1000 level, or 40 units of any courses at any level.

Callaghan Campus Timetable
PHIL 3260
PHILOSOPHY OF LANGUAGE
Enquiries: School of Humanities and Social Science
Semester 1 – 2006
Lecture Wednesday 15:00 - 17:00 [MCG29]

Plagiarism
University policy prohibits students plagiarising any material under any circumstances. A student plagiarises if he or she presents the thoughts or works of another as one's own. Without limiting the generality of this definition, it may include:

• copying or paraphrasing material from any source without due acknowledgment;
• using another's ideas without due acknowledgment;
• working with others without permission and presenting the resulting work as though it was completed independently.

Plagiarism is not only related to written works, but also to material such as data, images, music, formulae, websites and computer programs.

Aiding another student to plagiarise is also a violation of the Plagiarism Policy and may invoke a penalty.
For further information on the University policy on plagiarism, please refer to the Policy on Student Academic Integrity at the following link -


The University has established a software plagiarism detection system called Turnitin. When you submit assessment items please be aware that for the purpose of assessing any assessment item the University may -

- Reproduce this assessment item and provide a copy to another member of the University; and/or
- Communicate a copy of this assessment item to a plagiarism checking service (which may then retain a copy of the item on its database for the purpose of future plagiarism checking).
- Submit the assessment item to other forms of plagiarism checking

**Written Assessment Items**

Students may be required to provide written assessment items in electronic form as well as hard copy.

**Extension of Time for Assessment Items, Deferred Assessment and Special Consideration for Assessment Items or Formal Written Examinations**

Students are required to submit assessment items by the due date, as advised in the Course Outline, unless the Course Coordinator approves an extension of time for submission of the item. University policy is that an assessment item submitted after the due date, without an approved extension, will be penalised.

Any student:

1. who is applying for an extension of time for submission of an assessment item on the basis of medical, compassionate, hardship/trauma or unavoidable commitment: or
2. whose attendance at or performance in an assessment item or formal written examination has been or will be affected by medical, compassionate, hardship/trauma or unavoidable commitment;

must report the circumstances, with supporting documentation, to the appropriate officer on the prescribed form.

Please go to the Policy and the on-line form for further information, particularly for information on the options available to you, at:


**Changing your Enrolment**

The last dates to withdraw without financial or academic penalty (called the HECS Census Dates) are:

For semester 1 courses:  31 March 2006
For semester 2 courses:  31 August 2006
For Trimester 1 courses: 18 February 2006
For Trimester 2 courses: 10 June 2006

Students may withdraw from a course without academic penalty on or before the last
day of semester and prior to the commencement of the formal exam period. Any
withdrawal from a course after the last day of semester will result in a fail grade.

Students cannot enrol in a new course after the second week of semester/trimester,
except under exceptional circumstances. Any application to add a course after the
second week of semester/trimester must be on the appropriate form, and should be
discussed with the School Office.

To change your enrolment online, please refer to
http://www.newcastle.edu.au/study/enrolment/change-enrol.html

Contact Details
Faculty Student Service Offices

The Faculty of Education and Arts
Room: GP1-22 (General Purpose Building)
Phone: 0249 215 314

The Dean of Students
Dr Jennifer Archer
Phone: 492 15806
Fax: 492 17151
resolutionprecinct@newcastle.edu.au

Various services are offered by the University Student Support Unit:

Alteration of this Course Outline
No change to this course outline will be permitted after the end of the second week of
the term except in exceptional circumstances and with Head of School approval.
Students will be notified in advance of any approved changes to this outline.

Web Address for Rules Governing Undergraduate Academic Awards
Web Address for Rules Governing Postgraduate Academic Awards

STUDENTS WITH A DISABILITY OR CHRONIC ILLNESS

The University is committed to providing a range of support services for students with a disability or chronic illness.

If you have a disability or chronic illness which you feel may impact on your studies, please feel free to discuss your support needs with your lecturer or course coordinator.

Disability Support may also be provided by the Student Support Service (Disability). Students must be registered to receive this type of support. To register please contact the Disability Liaison Officer on 49 21 5766, or via email at: student-disability@newcastle.edu.au

As some forms of support can take a few weeks to implement it is extremely important that you discuss your needs with your lecturer, course coordinator or Student Support Service staff at the beginning of each semester.

For more information related to confidentiality and documentation please visit the Student Support Service (Disability) website at:

www.newcastle.edu.au/services/disability

There are no tutorials for this subject.

Studentmail and Blackboard: www.blackboard.newcastle.edu.au/

This course uses Blackboard and studentmail to contact students, so you are advised to keep your email accounts within the quota to ensure you receive essential messages. To receive an expedited response to queries, post questions on the Blackboard discussion forum if there is one, or if emailing staff directly use the course code in the subject line of your email. Students are advised to check their studentmail and the course Blackboard site on a weekly basis.

Written Assignment Presentation and Submission Details

Students are required to submit assessment items by the due date.

Hard copy submission:
Type your assignments: All work must be typewritten in 11 or 12 point black font. Leave a wide margin for marker’s comments, use 1.5 or double spacing, and include page numbers.
Word length: The word limit of all assessment items should be strictly followed – 10% above or below is acceptable, otherwise penalties may apply.
Proof read your work because spelling, grammatical and referencing mistakes will be penalised.
Staple the pages of your assignment together (do not use pins or paper clips).
University coversheet: All assignments must be submitted with the University coversheet: www.newcastle.edu.au/policy/academic/general/assess_coversheet.pdf
Assignments are to be deposited in the relevant discipline assignment box:
Callaghan students: School of Humanities and Social Science Office, Level 1, McMullin Building, MC127
Ourimbah students: Room H01.43
**Do not fax or email assignments:** Only hard copies of assignments will be considered for assessment. Inability to physically submit a hard copy of an assignment by the deadline due to other commitments or distance from campus is an unacceptable excuse. Assignments mailed to Schools are accepted from the date posted.

Keep a copy of all assignments: All assignments are date-stamped and recorded upon receipt, however it is the student’s responsibility to produce a copy of their work if the assignment goes astray after submission. Keep updated back-ups in hard copy and on disk.

**Online copy submission to Turnitin**
In addition to hard copy submission, students are required to submit an electronic version of the following assignments to Turnitin via the course Blackboard website:

Students will be required to submit two essays.
First essay (2,000 words) Due week 9. (Worth 50%)
Second essay (2,000 words) Due at end of semester

Prior to final submission, all students have the opportunity to submit one draft of their assignment to Turnitin to self-check their referencing.

Assignments will not be marked until both hard copy and online versions have been submitted. Marks may be deducted for late submission of either version.

**Special Consideration/Extension of Time Applications**
Students wishing to apply for Special Consideration or Extension of Time should obtain the appropriate form from the Student HUBS.

**No Assignment Re-submission**
Students who have failed an assignment are not permitted to revise and resubmit it in this course. However, students are always welcome to contact their Tutor, Lecturer or Course Coordinator to make a consultation time to receive individual feedback on their assignments.

**Remarks**
Students can request to have their work re-marked by the Course Coordinator or Discipline Convenor (or their delegate); three outcomes are possible: the same grade, a lower grade, or a higher grade being awarded. Students may also appeal against their final result for a course. Please consult the University policy at: [www.newcastle.edu.au/policy/academic/adm_prog/procedures_appeals_finalresult.pdf](http://www.newcastle.edu.au/policy/academic/adm_prog/procedures_appeals_finalresult.pdf)

**Return of Assignments**
Where possible, assignments will be marked within 3 weeks and returned to students in class. At the end of semester, students can collect assignments from the Student HUBS during office hours.

**Preferred Referencing Style**
In this course any in-text style of referencing is acceptable, provided it is clear and consistent.

An in-text citation names the author of the source, gives the date of publication, and for a direct quote includes a page number, in parentheses. At the end of the paper, a
list of references provides publication information about the source; the list is alphabetised by authors' last names (or by titles for works without authors). Further information on referencing and general study skills can be obtained from: Infoskills: www.newcastle.edu.au/services/library/tutorials infoskills/index.html

Student Representatives
We are very interested in your feedback and suggestions for improvement. Student Representatives are the channel of communication between students and the School Board. Contact details of Student Representatives can be found on the School website.

Student Communication
Students should discuss any course related matters with their Tutor, Lecturer, or Course Coordinator in the first instance and then the relevant Discipline or Program Convenor. If this proves unsatisfactory, they should then contact the Head of School if required. Contact details can be found on the School website.

Essential Online Information for Students
Information on Class and Exam Timetables, Tutorial Online Registration, Learning Support, Campus Maps, Careers information, Counselling, the Health Service and a range of free Student Support Services can be found at: http://www.newcastle.edu.au/currentstudents/index.html

Lecture schedule

Week one: The place and role of philosophy of language

Week two: Theories of truth – I

*Epistemic and coherence theories

Week three: Theories of truth – II

*Redundancy and correspondence

Week four: Theories of meaning – I

*Picture theories and their difficulties

*The public character of meaning. Dummett and the point of a Notion of meaning

*Meaning and use

Week five: Theories of Meaning – II

*Meaning and verifiability

Week six: “Linguistic Philosophy”

*J. L. Austin’s conception of philosophy

Week seven: Reference, Naming and Necessity
*The description theory of reference and Kripke’s criticisms
*The causal theory of reference
*Rigid designators and necessary identity
*Kripke’s Cartesian argument against materialism

**Week eight:** Language and the refutation of scepticism

* Wittgenstein and the impossibility of a private language.
* Davidson on scepticism, charity and translation
* Putnam and the “brain in a vat”.
* The “linguistic” justification of induction

**Week nine:** The later Wittgenstein and the dissolution of philosophical Problems

* Wittgenstein’s scepticism concerning the reality of Philosophical problems
* The “cure” for the desire to philosophise: careful attention To actual usage.

**Week ten:** Quine’s meaning scepticism - I

* Two dogmas of empiricism

**Week eleven:** Quine’s meaning scepticism - II

* The inscrutability of reference
* The indeterminacy of translation

**Week twelve:** Kripke’s meaning scepticism – I

**Week thirteen:** Kripke’s arguments for meaning scepticism – II
Marking guideline

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<th>Grading Guide</th>
<th>49% or less</th>
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Semester dates

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Mid-Semester Recess: Friday 14 April - Friday 28 April

Queen’s Birthday Public Holiday: Monday 12 June
Examination period: Tuesday 13 June - Friday 30 June