

LT5413: PHILOSOPHY OF LANGUAGE

Effective Term

Semester B 2024/25

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

Philosophy of Language

Subject Code

LT - Linguistics and Translation

Course Number

5413

Academic Unit

Linguistics and Translation (LT)

College/School

College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (CH)

Course Duration

One Semester

Credit Units

3

Level

P5, P6 - Postgraduate Degree

Medium of Instruction

English

Medium of Assessment

English

Prerequisites

Nil

Precursors

Nil

Equivalent Courses

CTL5413 Philosophy of Language

Exclusive Courses

Nil

Part II Course Details

Abstract

This course aims to help students explore the multifaceted problems in the part of the philosophy of language which is closely related to their study with a view to broadening their intellectual horizons, deepening their understanding of

language, sharpening their awareness of human cognition, and reinforcing their analytical and critical skills for tackling theoretical issues in their respective disciplines from the philosophical perspective. It also intends to enhance students' intellectual rigour and foster their critical spirit for the pursuit of examined scholarship.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs		Weighting (if app.)	DEC-A1	DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1	Explain the central issues in the philosophy of language relevant to their disciplines		x	x	
2	Demonstrate a good knowledge of current literature on the philosophy of language		x	x	
3	Analyse and evaluate conceptual issues from the logico-philosophical perspective		x	x	x
4	Demonstrate skills and techniques in analytical and critical thinking		x	x	x

A1: Attitude

Develop an attitude of discovery/innovation/creativity, as demonstrated by students possessing a strong sense of curiosity, asking questions actively, challenging assumptions or engaging in inquiry together with teachers.

A2: Ability

Develop the ability/skill needed to discover/innovate/create, as demonstrated by students possessing critical thinking skills to assess ideas, acquiring research skills, synthesizing knowledge across disciplines or applying academic knowledge to real-life problems.

A3: Accomplishments

Demonstrate accomplishment of discovery/innovation/creativity through producing /constructing creative works/new artefacts, effective solutions to real-life problems or new processes.

Learning and Teaching Activities (LTAs)

LTAs		Brief Description	CILO No.	Hours/week (if applicable)
1	1	Lecture with in-class discussion	1	
2	2	Lecture with in- class discussion on assigned readings	2	3 hours lecture; including in-class discussion
3	3	Lecture for student term project presentation	3, 4	

Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

ATs		CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks (e.g. Parameter for GenAI use)
1	Presentation	1, 2, 3, 4	30	
2	Research paper on a specific problem (15 pages)	1, 2, 3, 4	70	

Continuous Assessment (%)

100

Assessment Rubrics (AR)

Assessment Task

Presentation (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

Criterion

- 1.1 Ability to explain the central issues in the philosophy of language relevant to their disciplines;
- 1.2 Ability to analyse and evaluate conceptual issues from the logico-philosophical perspective.

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) 1. Excellent knowledge of key issues, basic concepts, ideas, principles and theories in philosophy of language. 2. Excellent, creative application of learned knowledge from the course to analysis and understanding of interesting language phenomena. 3. Very active participation and high performance.

Good

(B+, B, B-) 1, Good knowledge of key issues, basic concepts, ideas, principles and theories in philosophy of language. 2. Good application of learned knowledge from the course to analysis and understanding of interesting language phenomena. 3. Active participation and good performance.

Fair

(C+, C, C-) 1. Adequate basic knowledge of key issues, basic concepts, ideas, principles and theories in philosophy of language. 2. Fair application of learned knowledge from the course to analysis and understanding of interesting language phenomena. 3. Adequate participation and fair performance. 4. Basic familiarity with the subject matter as a whole.

Marginal

(D) 1. Basic knowledge of key issues, basic concepts, ideas, principles and theories in philosophy of language. 2. Marginal application of learned knowledge from the course to analysis and understanding of interesting language phenomena. 3. Marginal participation and fair performance. 4. Marginal familiarity with the subject matter as a whole.

Failure

(F) 1. Poor familiarity with the subject matter. 2. Poor ability or fail to apply basic knowledge from this course to analysis and understanding of relevant language phenomena. 3. Poor participation and poor performance.

Assessment Task

Research paper (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

Criterion

- 1.1 Ability to explain the central issues in the philosophy of language relevant to their disciplines;
- 1.2 Ability to analyse and evaluate conceptual issues from the logico-philosophical perspective;
- 1.3 Ability to demonstrate analytical and critical thinking

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) 1. Excellent knowledge of key issues, basic concepts, ideas, principles and theories in philosophy of language. 2. Excellent, creative application of learned knowledge from the course to analysis and understanding of interesting language phenomena. 3. Very active participation and high performance.

Good

(B+, B, B-) 1, Good knowledge of key issues, basic concepts, ideas, principles and theories in philosophy of language. 2. Good application of learned knowledge from the course to analysis and understanding of interesting language phenomena. 3. Active participation and good performance.

Fair

(C+, C, C-) 1. Adequate basic knowledge of key issues, basic concepts, ideas, principles and theories in philosophy of language. 2. Fair application of learned knowledge from the course to analysis and understanding of interesting language phenomena. 3. Adequate participation and fair performance. 4. Basic familiarity with the subject matter as a whole.

Marginal

D) 1. Basic knowledge of key issues, basic concepts, ideas, principles and theories in philosophy of language. 2. Marginal application of learned knowledge from the course to analysis and understanding of interesting language phenomena. 3. Marginal participation and fair performance. 4. Marginal familiarity with the subject matter as a whole.

Failure

(F) 1. Poor familiarity with the subject matter. 2. Poor ability or fail to apply basic knowledge from this course to analysis and understanding of relevant language phenomena. 3. Poor participation and poor performance.

Assessment Task

Presentation (for students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

Criterion

- 1.1 Ability to explain the central issues in the philosophy of language relevant to their disciplines;
- 1.2 Ability to analyse and evaluate conceptual issues from the logico-philosophical perspective.

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) 1. Excellent knowledge of key issues, basic concepts, ideas, principles and theories in philosophy of language. 2. Excellent, creative application of learned knowledge from the course to analysis and understanding of interesting language phenomena. 3. Very active participation and high performance.

Good

(B+, B) 1, Good knowledge of key issues, basic concepts, ideas, principles and theories in philosophy of language. 2. Good application of learned knowledge from the course to analysis and understanding of interesting language phenomena. 3. Active participation and good performance.

Marginal

(B-, C+, C) 1. Adequate basic knowledge of key issues, basic concepts, ideas, principles and theories in philosophy of language. 2. Fair application of learned knowledge from the course to analysis and understanding of interesting language phenomena. 3. Adequate participation and fair performance. 4. Basic familiarity with the subject matter as a whole.

Failure

(F) 1. Poor familiarity with the subject matter. 2. Poor ability or fail to apply basic knowledge from this course to analysis and understanding of relevant language phenomena. 3. Poor participation and poor performance.

Assessment Task

Research paper (for students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

Criterion

- 1.1 Ability to explain the central issues in the philosophy of language relevant to their disciplines;
- 1.2 Ability to analyse and evaluate conceptual issues from the logico-philosophical perspective;
- 1.3 Ability to demonstrate analytical and critical thinking

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) 1. Excellent knowledge of key issues, basic concepts, ideas, principles and theories in philosophy of language. 2. Excellent, creative application of learned knowledge from the course to analysis and understanding of interesting language phenomena. 3. Very active participation and high performance.

Good

(B+, B) 1, Good knowledge of key issues, basic concepts, ideas, principles and theories in philosophy of language. 2. Good application of learned knowledge from the course to analysis and understanding of interesting language phenomena. 3. Active participation and good performance.

Marginal

(B-, C+, C) 1. Adequate basic knowledge of key issues, basic concepts, ideas, principles and theories in philosophy of language. 2. Fair application of learned knowledge from the course to analysis and understanding of interesting language phenomena. 3. Adequate participation and fair performance. 4. Basic familiarity with the subject matter as a whole.

Failure

(F) 1. Poor familiarity with the subject matter. 2. Poor ability or fail to apply basic knowledge from this course to analysis and understanding of relevant language phenomena. 3. Poor participation and poor performance.

Part III Other Information

Keyword Syllabus

The linguistic turn; Central questions in the philosophy of language; Philosophy and semantics; Philosophy and syntax; Philosophy and pragmatics; Philosophical foundations of linguistic theories; Language and the world; Language and the mind; Language and knowledge; Language and science; Language and arts; Language and life; human language vs. animal language

Reading List**Compulsory Readings**

Title	
1	Katz, Jerrold J. (Ed). 1985. The Philosophy of Linguistics. Oxford: OUP.

Additional Readings

Title	
1	Austin, J. L. 1975. How To Do Things With Words. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard UP.
2	Black, Max. 1993. "More about metaphor". In Andrew Ortony (ed.), Metaphor and Thought. 2nd ed. Cambridge: CUP.
3	Grice, Paul. 1989. Studies in the Way of Words. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard UP.
4	Harris, Roy. 1981. The Language Myth. London: Duckworth.
5	Lakoff, George. 1993. "The contemporary theory of metaphor" in Andrew Ortony (ed.), Metaphor and Thought. 2nd ed. Cambridge: CUP.
6	Miller, Alexander (Ed.). 2007. Philosophy of Language. 2nd ed. Oxon: Routledge
7	Orwell, George. 1968. "Politics and the English Language" in Complete Works. London: Secker & Warburg, 735-744.
8	Selected entries from Routledge Encyclopedia of Philosophy; The Cambridge Dictionary of Philosophy; The Oxford Companion to Philosophy; The Blackwell Introduction to Philosophy; and many other online sources.