FLFI.03.036   Introduction to Philosophy of Language
2015/2016 spring full-time 3 ECTS

Faculty/Department	Department of Philosophy (HVFI01)
Amount of credits (1 ECTS=26 hours)	3 ECTS
Amount of credits (before 31.08.2009)	2 CP
Duration in semesters	1
Final assessment	differentiated (A, B, C, D, E, F, not present)
Syllabus credits	3 ECTS
Lecturers	Uku Tooming (responsible)
Languages of instruction	English
Minimum number of attendants	10
Study levels	bachelor's studies, master's studies
Forms of teaching and learning and no of hours	lectures: 26 independent work (including e-learning): 52
Web-based learning	Partially
Study period (in weeks)	24-39

Curricula containing this course

Philosophy (2437)	bac.	2015/2016	2016/2017
Semiotics and Culture Studies (2433)	bac.	2015/2016	2016/2017

Objectives

Philosophy of Language is one of the systematic core areas of theoretical philosophy. It deal centrally with the meaning of linguistic expressions and theories of communication. This course introduces the main contemporary theories and basic concepts of the discipline in the analytic tradition.

Learning outcomes

The students should acquire a solid overview of the main topics, central concepts, and central theories of contemporary philosophy of language.

The latter include:
* reference and meaning
* truth-conditional theories
* propositions
* the nature of language
* speech acts
* implicature
*semantics/pragmatics
* applications in feminist and social- and political philosophy

Students shall acquire the competence to apply central concepts and standard analyses in standard cases; understand the relative weaknesses and strengths of competing approaches, as well as the central test cases for semantic theories.

Brief description

Introuction to the theory of meaning, semantics, and communication, with applications.

Groups

Mark	Limit of attendants	Lecturers

Schedule

10.02.2016	lecture - Introduction
17.02.2016	lecture - Frege

02.03.2016	lecture - Russell	
09.03.2016	lecture - Kripke and Putnam	
16.03.2016	seminar - Excerpts from "Naming and Necessity"	
23.03.2016	lecture - Quine	
30.03.2016	lecture - Davidson and truth-conditional semantics	
06.04.2016	lecture - Possible worlds	
13.04.2016	lecture - Wittgenstein and ordinary language philosophy	
20.04.2016	lecture - Pragmatics	
27.04.2016	seminar - Grice, "Logic and Conversation"	
04.05.2016	lecture - Attitude ascriptions	
11.05.2016	lecture - Summary	
18.05.2016	test - Test	
25.05.2016	test - Test	
08.06.2016	test - Resit	

Lecture materials and course home page

Web-based learning environment

http://moodle.ut.ee

Compulsory study materials

Gary Kemp, What Is This Thing Called Philosophy of Language?

Recommended study materials

Alexander Miller: Philosophy of Language (2nd edition), Routledge
William Lycan, Philosophy of Language. Routledge.

List of independent works and their instructions

See study materials folder for the texts and the homework assignments.

Assessment methods and criteria

final written assessment	Positive grade: at least 51% of total points of the final exam.
	The exam will consist in four questions concerning the topics covered in the course. Each of the questions forms 25% of the overall grade and requires the student to prove her understanding of a particular problem or argument in philosophy of language. To get maximum points, the student has to give her own brief critical evaluation of the problem or argument in question.

Requirements to be met for final assessment

Taking the test

To obtain final grade, the following is required

The final grade is based on the points achieved at the final test.
The test will be graded on a 100-point scale, as follows:

A: 91-100
B: 81-90,5
C: 71-80,5
D: 61-70,5
E: 51-60,5
F: 0-50,5

Options for taking tests/exams at later date
    Resit test.