Oran Magal

Why take this course?

This course is an entry-point into philosophy of language, which is a core area of analytic philosophy, both historically and at present. Moreover, the tools it has developed are widely used in other fields of 20th century and contemporary philosophy. It is structured as a survey of some of the main topics in analytic philosophy of language, with a special focus on Wittgenstein (early and late).

Topics to be covered:

1. Early analytic philosophy: Frege and Russell
2. The 'Early Wittgenstein': *Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus*
3. Metaphysics through philosophy of language: Logical Empiricism & its aftermath
4. Conceptions and theories of truth: Tarski & subsequent work
5. The 'Later Wittgenstein': *Philosophical Investigations*, including Language-games, family resemblance, metaphysics as 'grammar', rule-following, the Private Language Argument
6. Quine: Holism ("Two Dogmas of Empiricism)", naturalistic semantics & epistemology
7. Pragmatics and speech acts (Austin, Grice, Searle)
8. Semantic externalism (Putnam, Kripke, *et al.*)

Readings:

Most required readings will be posted on *MyCourses*. For copyright reasons, this cannot be done with Wittgenstein's *Tractatus* and *Philosophical Investigations*. There will be reserved copies in the library for students who wish to photocopy only the required pages; of course, students are more than welcome to purchase copies of the books, it is quite easy to obtain both new and used copies (any of the existing translations would be fine). We will not be using a textbook, but for students who wish to consult secondary literature, the following are recommended:

1. A. P. Martinich and D. Sosa (eds.), *The Philosophy of Language*, 6th ed. (older editions are fine as well)
2. W. G. Lycan, *Philosophy of Language: A contemporary Introduction*, 2nd ed. (the 1st ed. is fine as well)
3. M. Morris, *Routledge Philosophy Guidebook to Wittgenstein and the Tractatus* (e-book available through McGill Library)
4. Marie McGinn, *Routledge Philosophy Guidebook to Wittgenstein's Philosophical Investigations* (e-book available through McGill Library)

Means of evaluation: The final mark comprises weekly reading assignments (20%), a short paper due around the middle of the term (30%), and a final paper (deadline as determined by university guidelines) (50%). All work will be submitted and returned online through MyCourses.

Required background:

No previous acquaintance with analytic philosophy is presupposed, but it is required to have taken at least one intermediate-level philosophy class before. Although the class includes no formal material, it is expected that students are able to understand the standard notation of symbolic logic, for example by having previously taken Intro to Deductive Logic (PHIL 210) or a similar course (e.g., COMP 230).

Policy for Late Work: Extensions to deadlines set will be granted only in **exceptional** circumstances, usually only for medical reasons and with a medical note or other, similar emergencies, appropriately documented. Late work will be penalized at the rate of 3 percentage points per day overdue.

McGill Statements of Policy:

In accord with McGill University's Charter of Students' Rights, students in this course have the right to submit in English or in French any written work that is to be graded. *Conformément à la Charte des droits de*

l'étudiant de l'Université McGill, chaque étudiant a le droit de soumettre en franais ou en anglais tout travail écrit devant tre not (sauf dans le cas des cours dont l'un des objets est la maîtrise d'une langue).

Academic Integrity: McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore, all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures. (see www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest/ for more information).