

Subject card

Subject name and code	A Contemporary introduction to philosophy of language, PG_00179111						
Field of study	History						
Date of commencement of studies	October 2025	Academic year of realisation of subject			2025/2026		
Education level	Bachelor's studies	Subject group					
Mode of study	full-time studies	Mode of delivery			e-learning		
Year of study	1	Language of instruction			English English		
Semester of study	2	ECTS credits			2.0		
Learning profile	academic	Assessment form			without credit		
Conducting unit	Faculty of Social Sciences -> Rector						
Name and surname of lecturer (lecturers)	Subject supervisor		dr Thomas Hodgson				
	Teachers		dr Thomas Hodgson				
Lesson types	Lesson type	Lecture	Tutorial	Laboratory	Project	Seminar	SUM
	Number of study hours	30.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	30
	E-learning hours included: 30.0						
Learning activity and number of study hours	Learning activity	Participation in didactic classes included in study plan		Participation in consultation hours		Self-study	SUM
	Number of study hours	30		2.0		18.0	50
Subject objectives	The aim of the course is to survey some of the key ideas from contemporary philosophy of language. There are many things that we don't know about language. However, philosophers of language, linguists, and cognitive scientists have developed interesting frameworks for thinking about what we do know and for formulating the questions that remain unanswered. Much of this work was done in the last century. These frameworks will be of interest to anybody who has wondered about how humans use language to communicate and persuade.						
Learning outcomes	Course outcome	Subject outcome			Method of verification		
		Students will learn how to evaluate arguments relevant to some contemporary philosophical theories about language. Students will gain knowledge of some contemporary theories about language. Students will practice discussing and giving reasoned defences of their views about language.			[SW1] oral statement/ conversation/discussion [SW2] presentation/project/paper/ report [SW3] text preparation/written work [SU1] oral statement/conversation/ discussion [SU2] presentation/project/paper/ report [SU3] text preparation/written work [SK1] oral statement/conversation/ discussion [SK2] presentation/project/paper/ report [SK3] text preparation/written work		
Subject contents	We will read and discuss material from Cappelen and Dever's textbooks and some primary literature in philosophy of language.						
Prerequisites and co-requisites							
Assessment methods and criteria	Subject passing criteria	Passing threshold			Percentage of the final grade		
	Coursework	0.0%			100.0%		

Recommended reading	Basic literature	Cappelen & Dever, Context and Communication, Oxford University Press, Oxford, 2016. Cappelen & Dever, Puzzles of Reference, Oxford University Press, Oxford, 2018. Cappelen & Dever, Bad Language, Oxford University Press, Oxford, 2019.
	Supplementary literature	Lycan, Philosophy of Language, Routledge, Oxford, 2019.
	eResources addresses	
Example issues/ example questions/ tasks being completed	<p>Key questions include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is the relationship between what a word means and what the person who uses it means? 2. Are the meanings of words fixed by our beliefs and desires? 3. Can we improve human languages? 	
Work placement	Not applicable	

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