University of St Andrews — Department of Philosophy
PY4632 *Contemporary Philosophy of Language: Pragmatics and Manipulative Speech*

Semester 2 2022-23

30 Credits

KEY MODULE INFORMATION

Convenor: Justin D'Ambrosio
Lectures: Lectures: Tuesday 3pm-5pm, YHL Seminar Room 2
Seminars: Seminars: Fridays @ 12pm and 1pm, EDG 104, starting week 2.
Please sign-up for a seminar on MMS from Monday of Week 0

Assessment:

Two essays.

Essay 1, worth 30% of final mark: 1500 words.
Deadline: Thursday 9 March, 2023

Essay 2, worth 70% of final mark: 4000 words.
Deadlines: Monday 24 April 2023

Intended Learning Outcomes: By the end of the module, students should have a grasp of the basic frameworks that philosophers and linguists use for thinking about and modelling conversation. They should also have a basic grasp of the distinction between semantics and pragmatics, the distinction between what is said and what is meant, the related idea of implicature, and how context figures into each of these. They should understand what the common ground is and the role it plays in philosophers' and linguists' models of conversation, they should know what the question under discussion is, and how it affects what is said and what is implicated, and they should have a preliminary understanding of the role that cooperativity plays in conversation. They will also have a basic understanding of the various competing views of lying, how lying differs from merely misleading, and of the categories of strategic and manipulative speech more generally.

LECTURE PLAN & READINGS

Readings marked with a * are essential. Readings not marked with * are recommended. Readings are listed roughly in order of importance.

Week 1: Grice and the Standard Model of Conversation

- *H.P. Grice (1975): 'Logic and Conversation';
- *H.P. Grice (1989): 'Further notes on Logic and Conversation';
- *Zoltán Gendler Szabó: 'The Goal of Conversation', Section 1
- H.P. Grice (1957): 'Meaning'
- Wayne Davis: 'Implicature', Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy

Week 2: Context as Common Ground

- *Robert Stalnaker (2002): 'Common Ground'
- *Robert Stalnaker (1998): 'On the Representation of Context'
- Robert Stalnaker: Context, Introduction + Ch.s 1&2 (don't worry too much about the details of chapter 1)
- Robert Stalnaker (1974): 'Pragmatic Presuppositions'

Week 3: Structuring the Common Ground

- *David Lewis (1979): 'Scorekeeping in a Language Game'
- *Anton Benz and Katja Jasinskaja (2017): 'Questions Under Discussion: From Sentence to Discourse'
- Craige Roberts(1996): 'Information structure in discourse; Toward an integrated theory of formal pragmatics', *Semantics & Pragmatics,* Volume 5, Article 6: 1–69,
- Paul Portner: 'The Semantics of Imperatives within a Theory of Clause Types'

Week 4: Illocution and Common Ground

- *J.L. Austin: *How to do things with words*, lectures VIII, IX, X, and XI
- *Bach and Harnish: *Linguistic Communication and Speech Acts*, Chapters 1 and 2.
- Robert Stalnaker: "Assertion"
- Robert Stalnaker: Selections from *Context and Content*
- Anders Schoubye and Andreas Stokke: "What is said?" in *Noûs*

Week 5: Lying and Misleading

- *Andreas Stokke (2018): Lying and Insincerity, Introduction + Chapters 1-3
- *Don Fallis (2009): 'Lying as a Violation of Grice's First Maxim of Quality';
- Jennifer Saul (2012): *Lying, Misleading, and What is Said*, part 1
- Sam Berstler (2019): 'What's the good of language? On the Moral Difference between Lying and Misleading', *Ethics*, 130(1)

Week 6: Lying and Misleading, Continued

- *Andreas Stokke: Lying and Insincerity, Chapters 4 & 5;
- Asher and Lascarides (2013): 'Strategic Conversation';
- Jörg Meibauer (2018): 'Lying, Implicating, Presupposing'
- Jennifer Lackey (2013): 'Lies and deception: an unhappy divorce', *Analysis*, 73(2)

Spring Break

Week 7: Strategic Speech and Manipulative Speech

- *Jennifer Saul (2018): 'Dogwhistles, Political Manipulation, and the Philosophy of Language';
- *Justin Khoo (2017): 'Code Words in Political Discourse'
- Mike Deigan (2021): 'Stupefying', in *Philosopher's Imprint*
- Mary-Kate McGowan: 'Conversational Excitatives'
- Andrew Peet (2018): 'Defective Contexts'

Week 8: Silencing

- *Rae Langton (2009) 'Speech Acts and Unspeakable Acts', in Sexual Solipsism. OUP.
- *Jennifer Hornsby and Rae Langton (1998), 'Free speech and illocution', Legal Theory, 4(1), 21–37.
- Alexander Bird (2002) 'Illocutionary silencing,'in Pacific Philosophical Quarterly, 83: 1–15.
- Ishani Maitra (2009) 'Silencing speech,', in Canadian Journal of Philosophy, vol. 39, pp. 309–38.
- Samia Hesni (2018) 'Illocutionary Frustration', in MIND, vol. 127 (508), pp. 947-976

Week 9: Accommodation and the At-Issue/Not-at-Issue Distinction

- *R. Langton and C. West (1999) 'Scorekeeping in a Pornographic Language Game', in Australasian Journal of Philosophy, 77 (3).
- *Jason Stanley (2015): How Propaganda Works, Princeton University Press, Chapters 3 and 4.
- Rae Langton (2018): Accommodating Injustice: The John Locke Lectures, Oxford University Press
- Rae Langton (2018): 'Blocking as Counterspeech', in New Work on Speech Acts, ed.s D. Fogal, D. Harris, M. Moss.

Week 10: Slogans and Discourse Structure

- *Jessica Keiser (2021): 'The "All Lives Matter" response: QUD-shifting as epistemic injustice', Synthese,
- Jessica Keiser (forthcoming): Non-Ideal Philosophy of Language, Chapters *7, 8, and 9
- Luvell Anderson (2017), 'Hermeneutical Impasses', in Philosophical Topics, 45(2), pp. 1-19
- Myisha Cherry (forthcoming): 'Value-Based Protest Slogans', in The Movement for Black Lives: Philosophical Perspectives

Week 11: Generics and the Common Ground

- *Sarah-Jane Leslie: "The Original Sin of Cognition: Fear, Prejudice, and Generalization", Journal of Philosophy, 114(8), 393-421
- *Jennifer Saul (2017): "Are Generics Especially Pernicious?", Inquiry,
- https://doi.org/10.1080/0020174X.2017.1285995
- Katherine Ritchie (2019): "Should we use Racial and Gender Generics?", Thought 8(1): 33-41
- Anne Bosse (2021): "Generics, some (non-)specifics", Synthese, forthcoming

ADDITIONAL READINGS & RESOURCES

The Routledge Handbook of Social and Political Philosophy of Language, ed. Justin Khoo and Rachel Katherine Sterken

The Oxford Handbook of Pragmatics, ed. Yan Huang