

Due to the COVID-19 crisis, the information below is subject to change, in particular that concerning the teaching mode (presential, distance or in a comodal or hybrid format).





5 credits

30.0 h

Q2

Teacher(s)	Verdée Peter ;
Language :	French
Place of the course	Louvain-la-Neuve
Main themes	<p>This course offers an introduction to the philosophy of language and aims to provide an overview of the different aspects of language:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• its nature: difference between human, animal and artificial language, the innate or acquired status of linguistic ability, the question of the origin of language</li> <li>• its relationship with reality: representation, expression, fiction, reference, truth</li> <li>• its relationship with thought</li> <li>• its relationship with action: speech acts</li> </ul> <p>The fundamental concepts of the philosophy of language (i.e. reference, sense, meaning, truth, intentionality, syntax, semantics, pragmatics, ordinary/formal language, grammar) are introduced, explained and placed in their historical context.</p>
Aims	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understanding of the different movements, concepts and issues of the philosophy of language from a historical perspective.</li> <li>1 • Understanding of how the study of language falls into three groups: syntax, semantics and pragmatics.</li> <li>• Ability to align the questions posed by contemporary philosophy of language with the key topics of the history of philosophy.</li> </ul> <p>-----</p> <p><i>The contribution of this Teaching Unit to the development and command of the skills and learning outcomes of the programme(s) can be accessed at the end of this sheet, in the section entitled "Programmes/courses offering this Teaching Unit".</i></p>
Evaluation methods	<p><b>Due to the COVID-19 crisis, the information in this section is particularly likely to change.</b></p> <p><b>January:</b></p> <p>20% of the final grade: Active participation in class              80% of the final grade: An oral exam with a written preparation (which is organized one or a few days before the oral exam)</p> <p><b>September:</b></p> <p>20% of the final grade: a written assignment (a 2-page reflection on a central question)              80% of the final grade: An oral exam with a written preparation (which is organized one or a few days before the oral exam)</p>
Teaching methods	<p><b>Due to the COVID-19 crisis, the information in this section is particularly likely to change.</b></p> <p>A few ex cathedra courses</p> <p>Reading courses. Students prepare texts at home. A student presents the general structure of the text in 20 minutes and then discusses the subjects of the article in detail.</p>
Content	<p>The course begins with a historical introduction to the philosophy of language where major themes are introduced in their historical context. Then we will study the following texts:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Gottlob Frege, "Sense and reference"</li> <li>2. W. V. O. Quine, "Le mythe de la signification "</li> <li>3. Michael Dummett, "What do I know when I know a language?"</li> <li>4. Peter Strawson, "Context and meaning"</li> <li>5. David Kaplan, "Demonstratives. An essay on the semantics, logic, metaphysics and epistemology of demonstratives and other indexicals. "</li> <li>6. John Searle, "What is a speech act? "</li> <li>7. Selection of passages from the book "Philosophy of Language (and Mind)" written by François Recanati</li> </ol>
Bibliography	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tous les textes et les slides seront disponibles sur Moodle</li> </ul>

Faculty or entity in charge	EFIL
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<b>Programmes containing this learning unit (UE)</b>				
Program title	Acronym	Credits	Prerequisite	Aims
Bachelor in Philosophy	<a href="#">FILO1BA</a>	5		
Bachelor in Philosophy, Politics and Economics	<a href="#">PPE1BA</a>	5		
Minor in Linguistics	<a href="#">MINLING</a>	5		
Certificat universitaire en philosophie (fondements)	<a href="#">FILO9CE</a>	5		
Minor in Philosophy	<a href="#">MINFILO</a>	5		