UCLouvain

lppe1102

2020

Logic, Language & Politics

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)	Reuchamps Min ;Verdée Peter ;
Language :	English
Place of the course	Louvain-la-Neuve
Main themes	The topics approaches in this class will include: - A quick overview of classical first order logic - A quick overview of the standard philosophical analysis of language: syntax, semantics and pragmatics; reference, meaning and use. - A selection of topics in modal logics for agent interaction: deontic logic, action logic and epistemic logic. - A selection of topics in speech act theory. - An analysis of how language operates in politics, e.g. the definition of rules of language use and how politicians seek to influence the use of language; the role of ' different ' language(s) in political discussions and negotiations; the role of linguistic devices (such as deictic) and in particular metaphors in the formation of political opinions; the analysis of political discourse via linguistic and socio-linguistic approaches.

Aims	1 The skills acquired in this class will include:
	    - Mastering the basic concepts of logics and the key ideas in the contemporary philosophy of language
	    - Be able to understand the methods in discourse analysis
	    - Get some basic understanding of socio-linguistics
	    - Get an understanding of the role and importance of language in politics
	    - Be able to apply these concepts and methods to political objects
	    - Be able to understand how specific concepts from applied logic and philosophy of language can be used to better understand interactions between political actors.
	
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	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".

Evaluation methods	**Due to the COVID-19 crisis, the information in this section is particularly likely to change.** **Grade in June:** 10/20 of the final grade: the theoretical exam in the middle of the quadrimester 4/20 of the final grade: the group presentation of the analysis of a discourse 6/20 of the final grade: the students can obtain 1/20 each of the six weeks of student presentations by providing (written) aswers to questions proposed in advance by the students who present that week **Grade in September:** 10/20 of the final grade: oral exam 10/20 of the final grade: a 5-page analysis of a discourse of choice.

Content	The course will proceed as follows.
	A) During six weeks we explore the theory behind some crucial concepts needed when analyzing language in politics
	
	  1. Sociolinguistics
	  2. Rhetorics
	  3. Discourse analysis
	  4. Semantics and truth
	  5. Pragmatics and speech acts
	  6. Propositional logic and fallacies
	B) A written exam will take place in the middle of the quadrimester to test the students' understanding of the theoretical concepts
	C) Six weeks of analysis of concrete discourse, guided by the students (in group).

	• Students form 12 groups. Each group chooses one text or video of a speech, dialogue, op-ed, etc. related to politics. • Students analyze their text or video of choice with the theoretical concepts learned in part 1. • Each week two groups present their work with the active participation of the other students.
Other infos	Depending on the evolution of sanitary conditions and consequently of the sanitary code, the teaching and evaluation mode will possibly change, in whole or in part, to remote mode via one or several computer tools provided by the University. Students enrolled in the course will be informed by e-mail.
Faculty or entity in charge	ESPO

Programmes containing this learning unit (UE)				
Program title	Acronym	Credits	Prerequisite	Aims
Bachelor in Philosophy, Politics and Economics	PPE1BA	5		🔍