






5.00 credits

30.0 h

Q2

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| Teacher(s) | Verdée Peter ; |
| Language : | French > English-friendly |
| 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"> • its nature: difference between human, animal and artificial language, the innate or acquired status of linguistic ability, the question of the origin of language • its relationship with reality: representation, expression, fiction, reference, truth • its relationship with thought • its relationship with action: speech acts <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> |
| Learning outcomes | <p>At the end of this learning unit, the student is able to :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding of the different movements, concepts and issues of the philosophy of language from a historical perspective. • Understanding of how the study of language falls into three groups: syntax, semantics and pragmatics. • Ability to align the questions posed by contemporary philosophy of language with the key topics of the history of philosophy. |
| Evaluation methods | <p>January:</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>September:</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>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"> 1. Gottlob Frege, "Sense and reference" 2. W. V. O. Quine, "Le mythe de la signification " 3. Michael Dummett, "What do I know when I know a language?" 4. Peter Strawson, "Context and meaning" 5. David Kaplan, "Demonstratives. An essay on the semantics, logic, metaphysics and epistemology of demonstratives and other indexicals. " 6. John Searle, "What is a speech act? " 7. Selection of passages from the book "Philosophy of Language (and Mind)" written by François Recanati |
| Bibliography | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tous les textes et les slides seront disponibles sur Moodle |
| Faculty or entity in charge | EFIL |

| Programmes containing this learning unit (UE) | | | | |
|------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|---------|--------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Program title | Acronym | Credits | Prerequisite | Learning outcomes |
| Certificat universitaire en philosophie (fondements) | FILO9CE | 5 | |  |
| Bachelor in Philosophy, Politics and Economics | PPE1BA | 5 | |  |
| Minor in Philosophy | MINFILO | 5 | |  |
| Bachelor in Philosophy | FILO1BA | 5 | |  |
| Minor in Linguistics | MINLING | 5 | |  |