

PHILOSOPHY 615

THE ANALYSIS, REPRESENTATION, AND ASCRIPTION OF BELIEF

Thursdays, 3–5 pm
1164 Angell Hall

INSTRUCTOR

Eric Swanson
ericsw@umich.edu
2220 Angell Hall
Office hours: Wednesday 3:15–5 and by appointment
Office phone: 734-763-3494
Home phone: 734-369-4283 (Please don't call after 8:30 pm.)

AIMS OF THE COURSE

We will discuss (1) the analysis of belief, (2) the representation of belief states, (3) the semantics and pragmatics of belief ascriptions, and (4) the interactions between (1)–(3).

Very, very briefly, I think that techniques used in (2) let us think about some problems in (3) in new and interesting ways. And I'd like to think about what upshots that has for (1).

COURSE WEB SITE

Go to <http://ctools.umich.edu>, click 'Sites' and scroll down to 'Phil of Language.' All readings will be posted there.

REQUIREMENTS

- Short weekly writeups in response to questions distributed the week before. Email them to me by Wednesday at 3 pm. You can skip as many as three of these without penalty.
- A meeting with me to discuss your final paper. This should happen by the end of November at the very latest.
- A 15 page paper, due January 18, 2007. If you prefer you can write two short papers—just ask.

SCHEDULE (subject to change)

9/7	Background Some roles for propositions. Lowest common denominator strategies.
9/14	The analysis of belief: theories that attribute structure FIELD 1978, "Mental Representation" FODOR 1987, <i>Psychosemantics</i> , chapter 1 and appendix
9/21	The analysis of belief: theories that do not attribute structure STALNAKER 1984, <i>Inquiry</i> , chapters 1 and 2 LEWIS 1986, <i>On the Plurality of Worlds</i> , sections 1.4 and 1.5 LEWIS 1994, "Reduction of Mind," especially pp. 421–430
9/28	The representation of belief: statics ADAMS 1998, chapters 1–4
10/5	The representation of belief: dynamics ADAMS 1998, chapters 5–8, appendix A3
10/12	The representation of conversational context STALNAKER 1974, "Pragmatic Presupposition" HEIM 1983, "On the Projection Problem for Presuppositions" STALNAKER 2002, "Common Ground"
10/19	The semantics and pragmatics of belief ascription KRIPKE 1979, "A Puzzle about Belief" SOAMES 1987, "Direct Reference, Propositional Attitudes, and Semantic Content" LARSON & LUDLOW 1993, "Interpreted Logical Forms"
10/26	The semantics and pragmatics of belief ascription LEWIS 1981, "What Puzzling Pierre Does Not Believe" STALNAKER 1988, "Belief Attribution and Context" Swanson, "Frege's Puzzle and Pragmatic Presupposition"
11/2	Interactions: Epistemic modals KRATZER 1991, "Modality" Swanson, "The Language of Subjective Uncertainty"
11/9	Interactions: Conditionals KRATZER 1986, "Conditionals" GIBBARD 1981, "Two Recent Theories of Conditionals" EDGINGTON 1995, "On Conditionals"
11/16	Interactions: Belief <i>de se</i> PERRY 1979, "The Problem of the Essential Indexical" LEWIS 1979, "Attitudes <i>De Dicto</i> and <i>De Se</i> "
11/30	Wrap up No additional reading

References

- ADAMS, ERNEST W. 1998. *A Primer of Probability Logic*. CSLI Publications, Stanford.
- EDGINGTON, DOROTHY. 1995. "On Conditionals." *Mind*, vol. 104: 235–329.
- FIELD, HARTRY. 1978. "Mental Representation." In *Truth and the Absence of Fact*, 30–67. Oxford University Press, Oxford. With postscript.
- FODOR, JERRY A. 1987. *Psychosemantics*. MIT Press, Cambridge.
- GIBBARD, ALLAN. 1981. "Two Recent Theories of Conditionals." In *Ifs: Conditionals, Belief, Decision, Chance, and Time*, WILLIAM L. HARPER, ROBERT STALNAKER & GLENN PEARCE, editors, 211–247. D. Reidel Publishing Company, Dordrecht.
- HEIM, IRENE. 1983. "On the Projection Problem for Presuppositions." In *Formal Semantics: The Essential Readings*, PAUL PORTNER & BARBARA H. PARTEE, editors, 249–260. Blackwell Publishers Ltd., Oxford.
- KRATZER, ANGELIKA. 1986. "Conditionals." In VON STECHOW & WUNDERLICH (1991), 651–656.
- . 1991. "Modality." In VON STECHOW & WUNDERLICH (1991), 639–650.
- KRIPKE, SAUL. 1979. "A Puzzle About Belief." In LUDLOW (1997), 875–920.
- LARSON, RICHARD K. & PETER LUDLOW. 1993. "Interpreted Logical Forms." In LUDLOW (1997), 993–1038. Originally appeared in *Synthese* 95 (1993): 305–356.
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- . 1994. "Reduction of Mind." In *A Companion to the Philosophy of Mind*, SAMUEL GUTTENPLAN, editor, 412–431. Blackwell Publishers, Ltd., Oxford.
- LUDLOW, PETER, editor. 1997. *Readings in the Philosophy of Language*. MIT Press, Cambridge.
- PERRY, JOHN. 1979. "The Problem of the Essential Indexical." *Noûs*, vol. 13: 3–21.

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- STALNAKER, ROBERT C. 1974. "Pragmatic Presuppositions." In STALNAKER (1999), 47–62.
- . 1984. *Inquiry*. MIT Press, Cambridge.
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- . 1999. *Context and Content*. Oxford University Press, Oxford.
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- VON STECHOW, ARNIM & DIETER WUNDERLICH, editors. 1991. *Semantics: An International Handbook of Contemporary Research*. W. de Gruyter, Berlin.