

PHILOSOPHY 550: LANGUAGE, IDEOLOGY, AND IDEOLOGUES
WINTER 2019

Professor Eric Swanson
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Office hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 1–2, and by appointment.

This seminar will focus on several interconnected questions:

How can language use strengthen ideologies? How can ideologies contribute to the force of language? What is an ideologue? How do ideologues use language? To what extent do presuppositions about the relationship between language and ideology encourage the dogmatism and anti-pluralism of ideologues?

COURSE WEB SITE

<https://umich.instructure.com/courses/284679>

SEMINAR MEETINGS

Tuesdays 6:00–8:20, in 1164 Angell Hall

GRADING (FOR ENROLLED STUDENTS ONLY)

- 25% each: Two papers, six to eight pages each, due over email to me on March 11 and June 1. (This is the default arrangement, but if some other arrangement would work better for you (e.g., writing a draft of a longer paper and then polishing it), please talk to me about what you'd like to do in advance. Everyone will have something substantial due on March 11, and on June 1.)
- 20%: Short (one page or less) reading responses, due over email to me every Monday night, raising questions about or making comments on the reading we'll discuss the next day.
- 20%: *Active* participation in seminar.
- 10%: A brief presentation, consisting of one comment on and two questions about some reading or readings from that week. Because there are more enrolled students than sessions, we'll have to have two presentations in at least a few sessions.

By January 25, please email me to tell me your top five presentation options. (An ordered list would be helpful!)

SCHEDULE

January 15	Organizational meeting
February 5	J. L. Austin, excerpts from <i>How to Do Things with Words</i> (from <i>The Discourse Reader</i> , Jaworski and Coupland, eds.) Nancy Bauer, chapter 6 of <i>How to Do Things with Pornography</i> : “What Is to Be Done with Austin?” Betty J. Birner, chapter 1 of <i>Introduction to Pragmatics</i> : “Defining Pragmatics”
February 12	Betty J. Birner, chapters 2 and 3 of <i>Introduction to Pragmatics</i> : “Gricean Implicature” and “Later Approaches to Implicature” Paul Grice, excerpts from “Logic and Conversation” (from <i>The Discourse Reader</i> , Jaworski and Coupland, eds.)
February 19	Betty J. Birner, chapters 4 and 5 of <i>Introduction to Pragmatics</i> : “Reference” and “Presupposition” Robert Stalnaker, “Pragmatic Presuppositions”
February 26	David Lewis, “Scorekeeping in a Language Game” Rae Langton and Caroline West, “Scorekeeping in a Pornographic Language Game” Howard Giles, “The Process of Communication Accommodation”
March 12	Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, excerpts from <i>The German Ideology, A Contribution to the Critique of Political Economy</i> , and <i>Capital</i> Antonio Gramsci, excerpts from <i>The Prison Notebooks</i> M. M. Bakhtin and V. N. Voloshinov, excerpts from <i>Marxism and the Philosophy of Language</i> Karl Mannheim, excerpts from <i>Ideology and Utopia</i>
March 19	Sarah-Jane Leslie, “The Original Sin of Cognition” Sally Haslanger, “Ideology, Generics, and Common Ground” Jennifer Saul, “Are Generics Especially Pernicious?”
March 26	Elisabeth Camp, “Slurring Perspectives” Robin Jeshion, “Slurs, Dehumanization, and the Expression of Contempt” Lynne Tirrell, “‘Listen to What You Say’: Rwanda’s Postgenocide Language Policies”
April 2	Eric Swanson, “Slurs and Ideologies” Rebecca Kukla, “Slurs, Interpellation, and Ideology” David Beaver and Jason Stanley, “Toward a Non-Ideal Philosophy of Language”
April 9	Peter Railton, “Morality, Ideology, and Reflection; or, the Duck Sits Yet” Eric Swanson, “Ideology and Presupposition in Ethical Appraisal” Karen Stenner, “Three Kinds of ‘Conservatism’”
April 16	Isaiah Berlin, “Two Concepts of Liberty” Russell Kirk, “The Drug of Ideology” Jan-Werner Müller, introduction and chapter 1 of <i>What Is Populism?</i> Vaclav Havel, excerpt from “Stories and Totalitarianism” (optional)
April 23	Alain Locke, “Pluralism and Intellectual Democracy” Susan Wolf, “Two Levels of Pluralism” Hanna Pitkin, “Relativism: A Lecture” Michele Moody-Adams, “The Idea of Moral Progress”