



COURSE GUIDE

Philosophical Semantics Teacher Luis Manuel Sanmartín Cava

Philosophy Degree **2nd Year**

Course 2020-2021

PHILOSOPHICAL SEMANTICS

1.- COURSE DETAILS

Course name	Philosophical Semantics
ECTS Credits	6
Type of learning	Basic
Calendar	Second semester
Module name	Philosophy of Language
Course requirements	None
Lecturer	Luis Manuel Sanmartín Cava (PhD) (lm.sanmartin@ucv.es)

2.- BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF COURSE CONTENT

The heart of this subject starts from this question: does language function as a representation of reality or is it merely a social practice? Through this question, we will address problems that have characterized the evolution of analytical philosophy: a philosophical trend which begins with the assumption that the first problem of philosophy is language. This issue will be interconnected with epistemological themes; but also sociological, ethical and even theological topics. This articulation will be carried out through specific problems such as:

- The study of signs and meaning.
- The paradoxes of referring.
- Establishing synonymy and translation relationships.
- The difficulty of comparing different lexicons.
- The relationship between world, truth and language.

3.- COURSE PROGRAM AND CALENDAR

Unit 1. The academic essay. 1.1. The analytical philosophical writing. 1.2. Planification of the essays of the course.	February
Unit 2. Referential theories of meaning. 2.1. The distinction from Frege between sense and reference. 2.2. Russell's solution to empty references.	February

<p>2.3. The types and the use of the types by Strawson.</p> <p>2.4. Kripke's & Putnam's direct reference approach.</p> <p>Unit 3. Language as a representation or a social practice.</p> <p>3.1. First Wittgenstein's theory of picture.</p> <p>3.2. <i>The Blue and Brown Notebooks</i>.</p> <p>3.3. Second Wittgenstein's language games.</p> <p>3.4. Theology and religious grammar.</p> <p>Unit 4. Meaning, synonymy and translation.</p> <p>4.1 The dogmas of empiricism by Quine.</p> <p>4.2 Putnam's search for <i>a priori</i> proposition.</p> <p>4.3 The indeterminacy of translation.</p> <p>Unit 5. From the linguistic turn to the pragmatic turn.</p> <p>5.1 Semiotics, science and religion according to Peirce.</p> <p>5.2 Kuhn's plot on incommensurability.</p> <p>5.3 Rorty's proposal of an edifying philosophy.</p> <p>5.4 <i>The Framing Theory</i> by Goffman & Bateson.</p> <p>Final evaluation.</p>	<p>March</p> <p>April</p> <p>May</p> <p>June/July</p>
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4.- REFERENCES

4.1 Compulsory readings

Reference b1:	Dynamic text of the subject produced by lecturer Luis Sanmartín.
Reference b2:	Davidson, D. (2005) [1967] "Interpretación radical". En L. Valdés (Ed.), <i>La Búsqueda del significado</i> , pp. 314-334. Madrid: Tecnos.

Reference b3:	Frege, G. (2005) [1892] "Sobre sentido y referencia". En L. Valdés (Ed.), <i>La Búsqueda del significado</i> , pp. 24-45. Madrid: Tecnos.
Reference b4:	Goffman, E. (2006) [1974] "Introducción". En <i>Frame Analysis. Los marcos de la experiencia</i> , pp. 1-22.
Reference b5:	Kripke, S. (2005) [1971] "Identidad y necesidad". En L. Valdés (Ed.), <i>La Búsqueda del significado</i> , pp. 57-82. Madrid: Tecnos.
Reference b6:	Kuhn, T. (2000) [1969] "Epílogo, 1969". En <i>La Estructura de las Revoluciones Científicas</i> , pp. 301-353. México DF: Fondo de Cultura Económica.
Reference b7:	Peirce, C. (1996) [1886] <i>Un argumento olvidado a favor de la realidad de Dios. Introducción, traducción y notas por Sara Barrena</i> . Universidad de Navarra: Cuadernos de Anuario Filosófico.
Reference b8:	Putnam, H. (1975). "El significado de 'significado'" En L. Valdés (Ed.), <i>La Búsqueda del significado</i> , pp. 98-130. Madrid: Tecnos.
Reference b9:	Putnam, H. (1978) "There is at least one a priori truth". En <i>Realism and Reason</i> , vol. 3, <i>Philosophical Papers</i> , pp. 98-114. New York: Cambridge University Press.
Reference b10:	Quine, W. v. O. (1968) [1960] "Traducción y significación". En <i>Palabra y Objeto</i> , pp. 39-92. Barcelona: Biblioteca Universitaria Labor.
Reference b11:	Quine, W. v. O. (2005) [1953] "Dos dogmas del empirismo". En L. Valdés (Ed.), <i>La Búsqueda del significado</i> , pp. 220-243. Madrid: Tecnos.
Reference b12:	Rorty, R. (1994) [1989] "La contingencia del lenguaje". En <i>Contingencia, ironía y solidaridad</i> , pp. 24-43. Barcelona: Paidós Básica.
Reference b13:	Russell, B. (2005) [1905]. "Sobre el denotar." <i>Teorema: Revista internacional de filosofía</i> , vol. 24 pp. 153-169.
Reference b14:	Strawson, P. F. (2005) [1950] "Sobre el referir". En L. Valdés (Ed.), <i>La Búsqueda del significado</i> , pp. 98-130. Madrid: Tecnos.
Reference b15:	Valdés, L. (2005). <i>La búsqueda del significado</i> . Madrid: Tecnos. You will find texts from Frege, Strawson, Kripke, Quine and Davidson.
Reference b16:	Wittgenstein, L. (2009) <i>Los cuadernos azul y marrón</i> . Madrid: Tecnos.
Reference b17:	Wittgenstein, L. (2010) [1953] <i>Investigaciones filosóficas</i> . Barcelona: Crítica.
Reference b18:	Wittgenstein, L. (2017) [1921] <i>Tractatus logicus-philosophicus</i> . Madrid: Tecnos.

4.2. Manuals

Reference m1:	Blasco, J. L., Grimaltos, T. & Sánchez, D. (1999). <i>Signo y pensamiento</i> . Barcelona, Ariel.
Reference m2:	Bonet, J.V & Bonet, C. (2016). <i>Sobre palabras, juego y acción</i> . Valencia: Universidad Católica de Valencia.
Reference m3:	Capintero, M. G. (1996). <i>Las palabras, las ideas y las cosas</i> . Barcelona, Ariel.
Reference m4:	Suárez, A. G. (1997) <i>Modos de significar. Una introducción temática a la filosofía del lenguaje</i> . Madrid: Tecnos.

4.2. Complementary references

Reference c1:	Barret, C. (1994) <i>Ética y creencia religiosa en Wittgenstein</i> . Madrid: Alianza Editorial.
Reference c2:	Bateson, G. (1998) [1972] <i>Pasos hacia una ecología de la mente. Una aproximación revolucionaria a la autocomprensión del hombre</i> . Buenos Aires: Ediciones Lohlé – Luhmen.
Reference c3:	Beuchot, M. (2006) "Peirce y la escolástica hispánica." <i>Revista anthropos: Huellas del conocimiento</i> , vol. 212, pp. 160-167.
Reference c4:	Bonet, J. V. (2001). "Sobre "la ciencia busca la verdad" y "la verdad es quitar comillas"". En <i>Teorías formales y teorías empíricas</i> , pp. 31-44. Universidad de Santiago de Compostela.
Reference c5:	Carnap, R. (1974) [1950]. "Empirismo, semántica y ontología". En J. Muguerza (Ed.), <i>La concepción analítica de la filosofía</i> , vol. 2, pp. 401-419.
Reference c6:	Conesa, F. (1998) "La teología como gramática del lenguaje sobre Dios." En J. Morales (Ed.), <i>Cristo y el Dios de los cristianos</i> , pp. 79-93. Pamplona: Servicio de Publicaciones de la Universidad de Navarra.
Reference c7:	Davidson, D. (1992) "Significado, verdad e interpretación". En <i>Mente, mundo y acción</i> , pp. 370-410. Barcelona: Universidad Autónoma de Barcelona.
Reference c8:	Delgado, M. (2002) "Impostura y sociedad. Lo verdadero y lo verosímil en Erving Goffman", <i>Escala</i> , vol. 5, pp. 7-11.
Reference c9:	Donnellan, K.S. (1966). "Reference and Definite Descriptions". <i>Philosophical Review</i> , n. 75, pp. 281-304.
Reference c10:	Dummett, M. (1975) "¿Qué es una teoría del significado?" En L. Valdés (Ed.), <i>La Búsqueda del significado</i> , pp. 131-194. Madrid: Tecnos.

Reference c11:	Kripke, S. (2005) [1980]. <i>El nombrar y la necesidad</i> . México DF: UNAM.
Reference c12:	Mates, B. (1952) [1950] "Synonymity. In L. Linsky (Ed.) <i>Semantics and the Philosophy of Language</i> , pp. 201-226. University of Illinois Press.
Reference c13:	Rorty, R. (1983) [1979] "De la epistemología a la hermenéutica". En <i>Filosofía y el espejo de la naturaleza</i> , pp. 287-322. Madrid: Cátedra.
Reference c14:	Saussure, F. (1991) [1916] <i>Curso de Lingüística General</i> . Madrid: Akal.
Reference c15:	Russell, B. (1973) "Sobre la teoría de Strawson acerca del referir." En T. Moro (comp.) <i>Semántica Filosófica: Problema y Discusiones</i> . Buenos Aires: Siglo XXI.
Reference c16:	Sellars, W. (1955) "Putnam on Synonymity and Belief". <i>Analysis</i> , vol. 15, pp. 117-120.
Reference c17:	Strawson, P. F. (1971) "Identifying reference and truth values." In <i>Logico-Linguistic Papers</i> , pp. 75-95. London: Methuen & Co Ltd.

5. METHODOLOGY

This subject corresponds to 6 ECTS credits, which is equivalent to 150 hours of student's work. That total amount of hours is distributed into 60 hours of teaching (2.4 ECTS) and 90 hours of student's self-study (3.6 ECTS). In this subject, the teaching process (2.4 ECTS) is based on the following teaching-learning methodology:

- 1) **A dynamic text**, designed by the professor.
- 2) **Videoconference**, through which theory lessons are given as well as guided tasks (training tasks, text analysis, seminars, etc.) and collective tutorials. Videoconferencing must be always interactive and these sessions last 90 minutes.
- 3) Attending **Webinars** organized by the faculty and the head of the Department.
- 4) **Video-lessons** about the most relevant topics for the subject.
- 5) **Telematic activities** through UCVnet platform (such as taking part in debate forums, solving practical questionnaires etc.), with the lecturer's intervention to correct and provide some guidance to students.
- 6) **Assessment tests**.

Student's self-study (3.6 ECTS) is distributed in different activities:

- Asynchronous re-view of the videoconferences.
- Preparing theory and practical lessons (flipped classroom).

- Course assignments.
- Studying and preparing the final assessment test.

6.- COMPETENCES TO BE ACQUIRED BY THE STUDENT

(The figures refer to the officially approved (by ANECA) list of competencies of this Online Degree in Philosophy).

GENERAL COMPETENCES [GC]

- 1 Organization and planning.
- 2 Basic computer skills.
- 3 Problem-solving.
- 6 Intra- and interdisciplinary team work.
- 11 Ability to learn and teach.

SPECIFIC COMPETENCES [SC]

- 17 To be able to pose philosophical questions.
- 18 To be able to relate different philosophical topics.
- 23 To write philosophical essays and show evidence of analytical and synthetic skills.
- 25 To be able to understand and evaluate philosophical arguments.
- 26 To be able to construct philosophical arguments.
- 31 To be able to analyze the logic of the languages and their various uses.
- 32 To be able to search, select and quote bibliography related to philosophy.
- 35 To be able to understand texts belonging to different periods or cultures and to be able to connect them with others texts.
- 40 Ability to participate in philosophy conferences, cultural activities, meetings and academic debates.
- 41 To recognize and describe the major stages, figures and works of philosophy.
- 42 To achieve a good knowledge about logical and metalogical concepts.

7.- LEARNING OUTCOMES

RA₁ To achieve the knowledge of the principal thesis developed by different authors of philosophy of language. [GC: 1, 11; SC: 18, 35, 42]

RA₂ To achieve the ability to write a philosophical essay. [GC: 3, 6; SC: 17, 23, 26, 31, 32, 35, 41]

RA₃ To understand the relationship between the philosophy of language and other parts of philosophy. [GC: 6, 11; SC: 18, 25, 35, 41, 42]

8.- ASSESSMENT

The final grade of the subject will cover following items:

- 1) Attendance and participation: 10%
- 2) Continuous evaluation (assignments to be submitted): 40%
- 3) Periodical assessment through questionnaires: 10%
- 4) Final assessment: 40%