

Ordinary Language Philosophy

PHIL XXX-XX

Semester, Year:

Meeting Time:

Meeting Place:

Course web page: <http://>

Instructor: Joe Ulatowski

Email: oohlah@msn.com

Office Phone: (XXX) XXX-XXXX

Office Hours: MWF or TR

Virtual Office Hours Thursday evening 730p – 830p online (see website for details)

Course Description: During the middle of the twentieth century, a movement known as “ordinary language philosophy” gave birth to a new way of *doing* philosophy more conducive to what common people thought of philosophical issues. Instead of the intensely logical analytic style of Russell, Whitehead, and Moore, ordinary language philosophers looked to the way that we use words in everyday language. This movement cast aside the prejudices of ivory tower philosophers in favor of a more accessible understanding of philosophy. Ordinary language philosophy is a loosely structured philosophical movement holding that the significance of concepts is fixed by linguistic practice. The aim of this course is to survey the ordinary language literature from Wittgenstein and Austin to present-day practitioners, such as Stanley Cavell, Cora Diamond, and James Conant. The course does not presuppose any familiarity with the history of philosophy.

Required Texts: J.L. Austin, *How to do Things with Words* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1962) ISBN

J.L. Austin, *Sense and Sensibilia* ()

Stanley Cavell, *Philosophy the Day after Tomorrow* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2005) ISBN 0-674-01704-8

Gilbert Ryle, *The Concept of Mind* ()

Ludwig Wittgenstein, *Philosophical Investigations*, trans. Elizabeth Anscombe, 3d. ed. (Oxford: Blackwell Publishing, 1958)

Requirements: Actually doing philosophy involves class discussion, in which students dialogue back and forth with the instructor and with each other. This class will be a seminar style course that places a premium on class discussion. Since this is the case, attendance is vital for success in the course.

Presentation. The student will complete a one-page summary of a reading designated by the instructor. The student should outline at least one argument in the reading and demonstrate that s/he has a command of the argument. If too confused by the argument, then summarize what you think the main argument of the reading is and present a few questions or criticisms of the main argument.

Examinations. There will be one take home mid-term examination, and one in-class final examination. The final exam will be comprehensive. The instructor also reserves the right to give an unannounced quiz at any time, though this is uncommon.

Final Paper. The student will be expected to complete one 10-12 page paper on a topic of the student's choice. More information, i.e., suggested topics, will be distributed sometime toward the middle of the semester. The student must submit a brief prospectus of the paper by DUE DATE, a bibliography by DUE DATE, and a detailed outline by DUE DATE.

Failure to complete any of these requirements will severely effect the your grade.

Grading: There are no averages in this class, so put your calculators away. Grades will be determined according to a linear point scale. The more points you accumulate the higher your grade. In-class participation is worth a total of 100 points, each presentation is worth 50 points (100 total points available), each one-page summary of the major argument in an assigned paper is worth 25 points (250 total points available), and the final paper is worth a total of 200 points. The total number of points available equals 650.

The grading scale is as follows: 585 for an A-, 520 for a B-, 455 for a C-, 390 for a D-. Anyone who fails to earn 390 points fails the class.

Course Schedule & Assignments: The table below outlines the approximate dates on which each topic will be discussed. Some topics will require additional time, particularly more discussion time, so this is not a schedule set in stone. This fact emphasizes the importance of attending class regularly as well as the importance of participating in class discussion.