

**COURSE DATA****DATA SUBJECT****Code:** 35430**Name:** Introduction to the philosophy of language**Cycle:** Undergraduate Studies**ECTS Credits:** 6**Academic year:** 2026-27**STUDY (S)**

Degree	Center	Acad. year	Period
1001 - Degree in Catalan Studies	Facultat de Filologia, Traducció i Comunicació	2	Second quarter
1003 - Degree in Hispanic Studies, Spanish Language and Literature	Facultat de Filologia, Traducció i Comunicació	2	Second quarter

SUBJECT-MATTER

Degree	Subject-matter	Character
1001 - Degree in Catalan Studies	Philosophy	BASIC
1003 - Degree in Hispanic Studies, Spanish Language and Literature	Philosophy	BASIC

COORDINATION

BERNAL GIMENEZ MARIA ASSUMPCIO

VALOR ABAD JORDI

ARTIGA GALINDO MARC

SUMMARY

Introduction to the philosophy of language is a generic subject of 6 credits included in the basic humanistic training module of the philological degrees. Its purpose is to introduce students to the philosophical problems posed by the phenomenon of linguistic meaning. How is it possible for a language to mean? What is meaning? What are the basic units of linguistic meaning and how do they differ in their way of meaning? How do we identify the meaning of a linguistic expression? What is the relationship between language, thought, reality and social practices that we associate with the use of linguistic expressions? We will address these and other basic questions by examining the work of several philosophers who have tried to answer them within the tradition of analytic philosophy.

The contents of this course are closely related to many issues dealt with in the subject Linguistics (35.665), which also belongs to the basic training modules.



The main objectives of the course are:

- To emphasize the "compositional" character of linguistic meaning and the importance of sentence meaning in determining the meaning of subsentential expressions.
- To familiarize students with basic concepts of the philosophy of language (reference, proposition, logical form, truth conditions, etc.) and to know the fundamental theses of some of the main theories of reference and meaning developed throughout the 20th century.
- To understand the importance of the theoretical change involved in explaining linguistic meaning on the basis of use.
- To develop students' ability to grasp the argumentative structure of a text and to understand and summarize its content.

PREVIOUS KNOWLEDGE

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER SUBJECTS OF THE SAME DEGREE

There are no specified enrollment restrictions with other subjects of the curriculum.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

No requiere haber cursado previamente asignatura alguna del Grado en Estudios Hispánicos

COMPETENCES / LEARNING OUTCOMES

1001 - Degree in Catalan Studies

Have and apply general knowledge in humanistic areas related to this field of study.

Interrelate different areas of humanistic studies.

Show ethical commitment in the field of language studies as regards gender equality, equal opportunities, the values of the culture of peace and democratic values and environmental and sustainability issues, and have an understanding and appreciation of linguistic diversity and multiculturalism.

Students must have acquired knowledge and understanding in a specific field of study, on the basis of general secondary education and at a level that includes mainly knowledge drawn from advanced textbooks, but also some cutting-edge knowledge in their field of study.

Students must have the ability to gather and interpret relevant data (usually in their field of study) to make judgements that take relevant social, scientific or ethical issues into consideration.

Work and learn autonomously and plan and manage work time.

Work as a team in the environment of language studies and develop interpersonal relations.

1003 - Degree in Hispanic Studies, Spanish Language and Literature



Be able to work and learn autonomously and to plan and manage work time.

Have and apply general knowledge in humanistic areas related to this field of study.

Interrelate different areas of humanistic studies.

Show ethical commitment in the field of language studies as regards gender equality, equal opportunities, the values of the culture of peace and democratic values and environmental and sustainability issues, and have an understanding and appreciation of linguistic diversity and multiculturalism.

Students must have acquired knowledge and understanding in a specific field of study, on the basis of general secondary education and at a level that includes mainly knowledge drawn from advanced textbooks, but also some cutting-edge knowledge in their field of study.

Students must have the ability to gather and interpret relevant data (usually in their field of study) to make judgements that take relevant social, scientific or ethical issues into consideration.

Work as a team in the environment of language studies and develop interpersonal relations.

DESCRIPTION OF CONTENTS

1. UNIT 1. Philosophy of language: the problem of explaining linguistic meaning

- 1.1. Introduction: the linguistic turn; basic notions and fundamental problems.
- 1.2. Frege: origin and foundations of the philosophy of language.

2. UNIT 2. Theories of reference

- 2.1. Propositions, proper names and definite descriptions: Russell's analysis.
- 2.2. Criticisms of Russell's analysis of definite descriptions: Strawson and Donnellan.
- 2.3. Theory of the bundle of descriptions and objections to descriptive theories of reference: Searle and Kripke.
- 2.4. Theories of direct reference: Kripke and Putnam.

3. UNIT 3. Meaning and use. Other problems and alternative perspectives

- 3.1. Meaning and use: Wittgenstein and the philosophy of ordinary language.
- 3.2. Speech acts: Austin and Searle.
- 3.3. Meaning, intention and convention: Grice.
- 3.4. Other problems and alternative perspectives.

WORKLOAD



PRESENCIAL ACTIVITIES

Activity	Hours
Theory	60,00
Total hours	60,00

NON PRESENCIAL ACTIVITIES

Activity	Hours
Attendance at other activities	0,00
Individual or group project	0,00
Independent study and work	60,00
Preparation of lessons	30,00
Preparation for assessment activities	0,00
Resolution of case studies	0,00
Total hours	90,00

TEACHING METHODOLOGY

20% of the teaching hours will be devoted to practical activities.

Theoretical sessions: The professor in charge of the course will explain the contents of the units already mentioned with the support of texts previously read by the students.

Practical activities. They will be useful in order to assess the students' capacity to carry out autonomous and team work. They may include all or some of the following tasks:

- Elaboration of individual or group essays.
- Elaboration of (individual or group) commentaries of texts studied throughout the course and discussed in the practical sessions.
- Short written tests (to answer individually or in a team) in which specific questions related to a problem or text examined in the theoretical and practical sessions will be answered.
- Active participation in seminars where we will discuss texts and fundamental problems in the field of philosophy of language.
- Presentation and discussion of works elaborated individually or in teams by the students.

EVALUATION

The evaluation will depend on two kinds of items: the practical activities carried out during the course and an individual written exam. The weight of each evaluable item in the final grade will be distributed as follows:

Type of evaluation	% of final grade



a) Individual written exam	70%
b) Practical activities	30%

The final exam will consist of an individual written test that will include questions related to the theoretical content of the course and to the texts discussed during the practical sessions. The questions of the written exam may be of three types:

1. Short questions aimed at testing the assimilation of basic concepts.
2. Questions to be developed to test the understanding of philosophical problems and theories (they will require a more extensive and reasoned exposition).
3. Text commentary. Commentary of a brief fragment of one of the basic texts studied in the practical sessions.

The evaluable practices will be specified at the beginning of the course and will consist of three activities (which, in turn, may be divided into several tasks). Each of these activities will count for 10% of the grade. These activities may be of several types:

1. Text commentaries in seminar sessions.
2. Essays or critical reviews on topics and texts studied throughout the course (these activities may be elaborated individually or collectively depending on the instructions given by the person responsible for the course).
3. Short questions aimed at checking the assimilation of basic concepts.
4. Questions to be developed in order to check the understanding of philosophical problems and theories (they will require a more extensive and reasoned exposition).

The students' active participation during the practical sessions (questions, presentation of practical activities, etc.) will be positively evaluated by the professor in charge of the course if so indicated.

In order to pass the course it is necessary to pass both the practical and theoretical parts.

Intellectual honesty is vital to an academic community and for the fair evaluation of the student's work. All work submitted in this course must be originally authored by every student. No student shall engage in unauthorized collaboration or make use of ChatGPT or other AI composition software.

The general grading system will follow the regulations of the Universitat de València approved by the Consell de Govern on 30 May 2017. ACGUV 108/2017.

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REFERENCES



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- PÉREZ OTERO, Manuel (2008, 1a edició 2001): Aproximació a la filosofia del llenguatge. Barcelona: Publicacions de la Universitat de Barcelona.
- VALDÉS VILLANUEVA, L. MI., compilador (2005, 1a edició 1991): La búsqueda del significado. Lecturas de filosofía del lenguaje. Madrid: Tecnos.
- Además de las referencias básicas a lo largo del curso se irán proporcionando referencias complementarias que aparecerán detalladas en el Aula Virtual.
- HIERRO S. PESCADOR, José (1984, 1a edició 1980): Principios de Filosofía del Lenguaje (2 volums). Madrid: Alianza.
- LYCAN, William G. (2008, 1a edició 2000): Philosophy of Language. A Contemporary Introduction. New York: Routledge.
- RUSSELL, Bertrand (1905): On Denoting, Mind (New Series) 14: 479-93. Traducció al català de J. Ll. Blasco Sobre la denotació en Russell (1985): Lògica i coneixement, Barcelona: Laia. Traducció al castellà de Javier Muguerza: Sobre la denotación, en Russell (1981): Lógica y conocimiento. Madrid: Taurus.
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- WITTGENSTEIN, Ludwig (1a edició 1953): Philosophische Untersuchungen -- Philosophical Investigations (edició bilingüe alemany/anglès). Oxford: Blackwell. Edició i traducció al català a cura de J. M. Terricabras: Investigacions filosòfiques. Barcelona: Edicions 62, 1997. Traducció al castellà de A. García Suárez i U. Moulines: Investigaciones filosóficas. Barcelona: Crítica, 1988.
- AUSTIN, J. L. (1962) How to do Things With Words. Oxford: Clarendon Press. Traducció al castellà de Genaro R. Carrió y Eduardo A. Rabossida, Cómo hacer cosas con palabras. Barcelona: Paidós, 1982.
- GRICE, P. (1989) Studies in the Way of Words. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.



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