Description:
The course surveys some of the major problems and issues in contemporary philosophy of language. It is aimed at students without any background in philosophy, but with some sympathy or patience for abstract and formal issues. Please preview the textbook and skim some of the chapters to see if the content of this course matches your expectations.

Requirements:
There will be an in-class midterm and a final examination, each worth 40% of the final course grade. Study guides will be distributed one week before the scheduled examination. Students have the opportunity to do test corrections for an additional plus (e.g. D to D+, D+ to C-, C- to C, etc.).

Starting next week, you are required send me an approximately 125-word e-mail every week by Monday 11pm, containing at least one question and one critical comment about the current week's reading assignments. The subject line of your e-mail should be 'PHIL315'. I will grade your e-mails on completeness (did you send a question and comment every week?) and the degree to which they show familiarity and engagement with the assigned readings. I will respond to the first email to indicate whether or not your email is satisfactory, but generally I will not respond to your emails individually. However, I will address them in class and I will send you an interim evaluation by October 17. No emails are required during the Thanksgiving break. (20%)

Attendance and class participation will play a role in deciding borderline cases. Pluses and minuses will be used in determining the course grade.

Late Work, Make-up Work, Extra Credit, Academic Integrity
Late e-mails are unsatisfactory and there are no make-up examinations. Please consult Colorado State University’s policy on cheating and plagiarism. The penalty for cheating or plagiarism is a '0' for the relevant assignment with no option for redoing the assignment.

Textbooks:
Required:
Michael Morris, An Introduction to the Philosophy of Language.
Online texts
Recommended:
Losonsky, Linguistic Turns in Modern Philosophy

Syllabus

Part I: Meaning and Concepts

Week 1 (23/25 Aug): Locke
Morris, chapter 1
Locke, Essay, III.2.2
Recommended: Losonsky, “Language, Meaning and Mind in Locke's Essay”

Week 2: (30 Aug/1 Sep): Frege
Morris, chapter 2
Frege, “Sense and Reference”
Week 3 (6/8 Sep): Analytic/Synthetic Distinction
Quine: "Two Dogmas of Empiricism"
Soames: "Ontology, Analyticity and Meaning: the Quine-Carnap Dispute

Part II: Meaning and Objects

Week 4 (13/15 Sep): Russell
Morris, Chapter 3
Russell, "Definite Descriptions"

Week 5 (20/22 Sep): Kripke
Morris, Chapter 4
Kripke, Lecture II, Naming and Necessity
Devitt and Sterelny, “The Qua-problem"

Part III: Applications

Week 6 (27/29 Sep): Natural Kind Terms
Morris, Chapter 5
Putnam, “Meaning and Reference”
Searle, “Are Meanings in the Head?”

Week 7 (4/6 Oct): Modal Statements
Morris, Chapter 6

Week 8 (11/13 Oct): Propositional Attitude Statements
Morris, Chapter 7 and 8

Week 9: Review and Midterm Examination
17 Oct: Course Withdrawal deadline
18 Oct: Review
20 Oct: Midterm

Part IV: Meaning and Truth

Week 10 (25/27 Oct): Tarski and Davidson
Morris, Chapter 9
Tarski, “The Semantic Conception of Truth and the Foundations of Semantics”
Davidson, “Meaning and Truth”

Week 11 (1/3 Nov): Translation and Interpretation
Morris, Chapter 10 and 11

Part V: Meaning and Intentions

Week 12 (1/3 Nov): Austin
Morris, Chapter 12
Searle, “What is a Speech Act?”
Searle, “Are Meanings in the Head?”

Week 13 (8/10 Nov): Grice
Morris, Chapter 13

Part VII: Meaning and Community

Week 14 (15/17 Nov): Rule-Following Paradox
Morris, Chapter 14
Kripke, Selections from Wittgenstein on Rules and Private Language
Week 15 (22/24 Nov): Thanksgiving

Week 16 (29 Nov/1 Dec): Response
    Simon Blackburn: "The Individual Strikes Back"

Week 17 (6/8 Dec):
    John McDowell: "Wittgenstein on Following a Rule"

Final Examination
December 16, 9:40a - 11:40a