



PHIL*4120 Current Debates in Language and Mind

Winter 2020

Section(s): C01

Department of Philosophy

Credit Weight: 0.50

Version 1.00 - January 06, 2020

1 Course Details

1.1 Calendar Description

Each offering of this course will focus on a specific issue or set of related issues that are now being debated in Philosophy of mind and Philosophy of language. Readings will be contemporary works.

Pre-Requisites: 1.00 credits in Philosophy at the 3000 level or 12.50 credits

1.2 Course Description

This course is a high-level introduction to issues in Philosophy of Language. There are a bunch of properties of language among which philosophers and linguists have tried to sort out the relations, and understanding those relations will be our main aim. Those properties include:

- compositionality
- modality
- intensionality
- context-sensitivity
- pragmatic features: what is suggested; what is asserted

Our framework for this inquiry will be the book *What is meaning? Fundamentals of formal semantics*, by Paul Portner. But a lot of what we read will be PDFs that supplement that in various ways.

1.3 Timetable

Timetable is subject to change. Please see WebAdvisor for the latest information.

1.4 Final Exam

There is no final exam for this course.

2 Instructional Support

2.1 Instructional Support Team

Instructor:	Mark McCullagh
Email:	mmcculla@uoguelph.ca
Telephone:	+1-519-824-4120 x53505
Office:	MCKN 347
Office Hours:	TBA

3 Learning Resources

3.1 Required Resources

Textbook (Textbook)

What is meaning? Fundamentals of formal semantics, by Paul Portner.

Various articles (Article)

Various articles will be made available on the course website:

<https://www.markmccullagh.ca/PHIL4120-01W20/>

4 Learning Outcomes

4.1 Course Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, you should be able to:

1. *Orally Articulate and Defend* a position on a philosophical topic, either in class discussion or in a formal presentation, that is clear, accurate and well-reasoned.
2. *Develop* research methods for gathering a wide range of primary and secondary source materials, and synthesize these materials and evaluate their credibility.
3. *Demonstrate Independence* in articulating an original approach to a significant philosophical topic.

4. *Write* clearly and cogently on complex problems in philosophy.

5. *Read* extensively and systematically in a specialized area of philosophical research.

5 Teaching and Learning Activities

You will do three mini-presentations during the course. In these you can:

- raise questions about the readings (including expository questions)
- make objections to some points made by the authors
- discuss ways of extending some points made by the authors

At our first meeting I will discuss the expectations for these mini-presentations.

You will also submit two essays, each about 12 pages (= 4,000 words double-spaced, 12 pt, times font). In your essays you can develop any point arising in the readings or in your own or others' mini-presentations.

6 Assessments

6.1 Marking Schemes & Distributions

Mini-presentations: 12 points each = 36 points

Essays: 32 points each = 64 points

7 University Statements

7.1 Email Communication

As per university regulations, all students are required to check their e-mail account regularly: e-mail is the official route of communication between the University and its students.

7.2 When You Cannot Meet a Course Requirement

When you find yourself unable to meet an in-course requirement because of illness or compassionate reasons please advise the course instructor (or designated person, such as a

teaching assistant) in writing, with your name, id#, and e-mail contact. The grounds for Academic Consideration are detailed in the Undergraduate and Graduate Calendars.

Undergraduate Calendar - Academic Consideration and Appeals

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-ac.shtml>

Graduate Calendar - Grounds for Academic Consideration

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/current/genreg/index.shtml>

Associate Diploma Calendar - Academic Consideration, Appeals and Petitions

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/diploma/current/index.shtml>

7.3 Drop Date

Students will have until the last day of classes to drop courses without academic penalty. The deadline to drop two-semester courses will be the last day of classes in the second semester. This applies to all students (undergraduate, graduate and diploma) except for Doctor of Veterinary Medicine and Associate Diploma in Veterinary Technology (conventional and alternative delivery) students. The regulations and procedures for course registration are available in their respective Academic Calendars.

Undergraduate Calendar - Dropping Courses

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-drop.shtml>

Graduate Calendar - Registration Changes

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/current/genreg/genreg-reg-regchg.shtml>

Associate Diploma Calendar - Dropping Courses

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/diploma/current/c08/c08-drop.shtml>

7.4 Copies of Out-of-class Assignments

Keep paper and/or other reliable back-up copies of all out-of-class assignments: you may be asked to resubmit work at any time.

7.5 Accessibility

The University promotes the full participation of students who experience disabilities in their academic programs. To that end, the provision of academic accommodation is a shared responsibility between the University and the student.

When accommodations are needed, the student is required to first register with Student Accessibility Services (SAS). Documentation to substantiate the existence of a disability is required; however, interim accommodations may be possible while that process is underway.

Accommodations are available for both permanent and temporary disabilities. It should be noted that common illnesses such as a cold or the flu do not constitute a disability.

Use of the SAS Exam Centre requires students to book their exams at least 7 days in advance and not later than the 40th Class Day.

For Guelph students, information can be found on the SAS website
<https://www.uoguelph.ca/sas>

For Ridgetown students, information can be found on the Ridgetown SAS website
<https://www.ridgetownc.com/services/accessibilityservices.cfm>

7.6 Academic Integrity

The University of Guelph is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic integrity, and it is the responsibility of all members of the University community-faculty, staff, and students-to be aware of what constitutes academic misconduct and to do as much as possible to prevent academic offences from occurring. University of Guelph students have the responsibility of abiding by the University's policy on academic misconduct regardless of their location of study; faculty, staff, and students have the responsibility of supporting an environment that encourages academic integrity. Students need to remain aware that instructors have access to and the right to use electronic and other means of detection.

Please note: Whether or not a student intended to commit academic misconduct is not relevant for a finding of guilt. Hurried or careless submission of assignments does not excuse students from responsibility for verifying the academic integrity of their work before submitting it. Students who are in any doubt as to whether an action on their part could be construed as an academic offence should consult with a faculty member or faculty advisor.

Undergraduate Calendar - Academic Misconduct
<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-amisconduct.shtml>

Graduate Calendar - Academic Misconduct
<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/current/genreg/index.shtml>

7.7 Recording of Materials

Presentations that are made in relation to course work - including lectures - cannot be recorded or copied without the permission of the presenter, whether the instructor, a student, or guest lecturer. Material recorded with permission is restricted to use for that course unless further permission is granted.

7.8 Resources

The Academic Calendars are the source of information about the University of Guelph's procedures, policies, and regulations that apply to undergraduate, graduate, and diploma programs.

Academic Calendars
<https://www.uoguelph.ca/academics/calendars>