University of Gdańsk

Subject card

Subject name and code	A Contemporary introduction to philosophy of language, PG_00179111		
Field of study	History		
Date of commencement of studies	October 2025	Academic year of realisation of subject	2025/2026
Education level	Bachelor's studies	Subject group	
Mode of study	full-time studies	Mode of delivery	e-learning
Year of study	1	Language of instruction	English English
Semester of study	2	ECTS credits	2.0
Learning profile	academic	Assessment form	credit
Conducting unit	Faculty of Social Sciences -> Rector		
Name and surname of lecturer (lecturers)	Subject supervisor	dr Thomas Hodgson	
	Teachers	dr Thomas Hodgson	

Lesson types

Lesson type	Lecture	Tutorial	Laboratory	Project	Seminar	SUM
Number of study hours	30.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	30

E-learning hours included: 30.0

eNauczanie source addresses:

Moodle ID: 13331 A contemporary introduction to philosophy of language 2025/2026
https://mdl.ug.edu.pl/course/view.php?id=13331

Learning activity and number of study hours

Learning activity	Participation in didactic classes included in study plan	Participation in consultation hours	Self-study	SUM
Number of study hours	30	0.0	20.0	50

Subject objectives

The aim of the course is to survey some of the key ideas from contemporary philosophy of language. There are many things that we don't know about language. However, philosophers of language, linguists, and cognitive scientists have developed interesting frameworks for thinking about what we do know and for formulating the questions that remain unanswered. Much of this work was done in the last century. These frameworks will be of interest to anybody who has wondered about how humans use language to communicate and persuade.

Learning outcomes

Course outcome	Subject outcome	Method of verification
	Students will learn how to evaluate arguments relevant to some contemporary philosophical theories about language. Students will gain knowledge of some contemporary theories about language. Students will practice discussing and giving reasoned defences of their views about language.	[SW1] oral statement/ conversation/discussion [SW2] presentation/project/paper/ report [SW3] text preparation/written work [SU1] oral statement/conversation/ discussion [SU2] presentation/project/paper/ report [SU3] text preparation/written work [SK1] oral statement/conversation/ discussion [SK2] presentation/project/paper/ report [SK3] text preparation/written work

Subject contents

We will read and discuss material from Cappelen and Dever's textbooks and some primary literature in philosophy of language.

Prerequisites and co-requisites

<table>
<tr><td>Assessment methods and criteria</td><td colspan="2"><table><tr><th>Subject passing criteria</th><th>Passing threshold</th><th>Percentage of the final grade</th></tr><tr><td>Coursework</td><td>0.0%</td><td>100.0%</td></tr></table></td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="3">Recommended reading</td><td>Basic literature</td><td>Cappelen & Dever, Context and Communication, Oxford University Press, Oxford, 2016.

Cappelen & Dever, Puzzles of Reference, Oxford University Press, Oxford, 2018.

Cappelen & Dever, Bad Language, Oxford University Press, Oxford, 2019.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Supplementary literature</td><td>Lycan, Philosophy of Language, Routledge, Oxford, 2019.</td></tr>
<tr><td>eResources addresses</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>Example issues/ example questions/ tasks being completed</td><td colspan="2">Key questions include:

1. What is the relationship between what a word means and what the person who uses it means?

2. Are the meanings of words fixed by our beliefs and desires?

3. Can we improve human languages?</td></tr>
<tr><td>Work placement</td><td colspan="2">Not applicable</td></tr>
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