

FIL2403, Fall 2019

This course will cover a range of core areas in analytic philosophy of language, including:

1. Reference. How does language connect with reality? What makes it the case that a name refers to one object rather than another? Is the meaning of a name given by a definite description?

2. Meaning. What is linguistic meaning? Is linguistic meaning determined wholly by internal factors such as psychological states, or can the environment play a role as well?

3. Pragmatics and implicature. How does the context in which an utterance is produced affect our understanding of what a speaker is trying to communicate? How do we convey more with our utterances than we literally say? What is metaphor? Is the function of metaphor different in kind from literal speech?