










5.00 credits

30.0 h

Q2

Teacher(s)	Verdée Peter ;
Language :	French > English-friendly
Place of the course	Louvain-la-Neuve
Main themes	<p>This course offers an introduction to the philosophy of language and aims to provide an overview of the different aspects of language:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• its nature: difference between human, animal and artificial language, the innate or acquired status of linguistic ability, the question of the origin of language</li> <li>• its relationship with reality: representation, expression, fiction, reference, truth</li> <li>• its relationship with thought</li> <li>• its relationship with action: speech acts</li> </ul> <p>The fundamental concepts of the philosophy of language (i.e. reference, sense, meaning, truth, intentionality, syntax, semantics, pragmatics, ordinary/formal language, grammar) are introduced, explained and placed in their historical context.</p>
Learning outcomes	<p><b>At the end of this learning unit, the student is able to :</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understanding of the different movements, concepts and issues of the philosophy of language from a historical perspective.</li> <li>• Understanding of how the study of language falls into three groups: syntax, semantics and pragmatics.</li> <li>• Ability to align the questions posed by contemporary philosophy of language with the key topics of the history of philosophy.</li> </ul>
Evaluation methods	<p><b>January:</b></p> <p>20% of the final grade: Active participation in class 80% of the final grade: An oral exam with a written preparation (which is organized one or a few days before the oral exam)</p> <p><b>September:</b></p> <p>20% of the final grade: a written assignment (a 2-page reflection on a central question) 80% of the final grade: An oral exam with a written preparation (which is organized one or a few days before the oral exam)</p>
Teaching methods	<p>A few ex cathedra courses</p> <p>Reading courses. Students prepare texts at home. A student presents the general structure of the text in 20 minutes and then discusses the subjects of the article in detail.</p>
Content	<p>The course begins with a historical introduction to the philosophy of language where major themes are introduced in their historical context. Then we will study the following texts:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Gottlob Frege, "Sense and reference"</li> <li>2. W. V. O. Quine, "Le mythe de la signification "</li> <li>3. Michael Dummett, "What do I know when I know a language?"</li> <li>4. Peter Strawson, "Context and meaning"</li> <li>5. David Kaplan, "Demonstratives. An essay on the semantics, logic, metaphysics and epistemology of demonstratives and other indexicals. "</li> <li>6. John Searle, "What is a speech act? "</li> <li>7. Selection of passages from the book "Philosophy of Language (and Mind)" written by François Recanati</li> </ol>
Bibliography	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tous les textes et les slides seront disponibles sur Moodle</li> </ul>
Faculty or entity in charge	EFIL

Programmes containing this learning unit (UE)				
Program title	Acronym	Credits	Prerequisite	Learning outcomes
Certificat universitaire en philosophie (fondements)	<a href="#">FILO9CE</a>	5		
Bachelor in Modern Languages and Literatures: German, Dutch and English	<a href="#">GERM1BA</a>	5		
Bachelor in Ancient and Modern Languages and Literatures	<a href="#">LAFR1BA</a>	5		
Bachelor in Philosophy, Politics and Economics	<a href="#">PPE1BA</a>	5		
Minor in Philosophy	<a href="#">MINFILO</a>	5		
Bachelor in Philosophy	<a href="#">FILO1BA</a>	5		
Minor in Linguistics (only available for reenrolment)	<a href="#">MINLING</a>	5		
Bachelor in French and Romance Languages and Literatures : General	<a href="#">ROM1BA</a>	5		
Bachelor in Modern Languages and Literatures : General	<a href="#">ROGE1BA</a>	5		
Minor in Linguistics	<a href="#">MINLINGUI</a>	5		