

## PHI 516. Special Topics in the History of Philosophy: Quine and Davidson. Spring Term 2008-2009.

Meeting alternately at Rutgers and Princeton.  
Gilbert Harman and Ernie Lepore

Reading should be done ahead of time for discussion at the session indicated.

The following books should be available from the local campus bookstore.

Quine, *From a Logical Point of View*  
Quine, *Word and Object*  
Davidson, *Essays on Actions and Events*  
Davidson, *Inquiries into Truth and Interpretation*

Much of the other reading listed is available online from Sakai at Rutgers. Princeton students should send email to [harman@princeton.edu](mailto:harman@princeton.edu) to obtain access.

### Syllabus

Mondays, 2-5 PM

#### 1. Analytic/Synthetic I (January 26<sup>th</sup> at Rutgers)

*Main Readings:*

Quine, "Two Dogmas of Empiricism," in *From a Logical Point of View*  
Quine, "The Problem of Meaning in Linguistics," in *From a Logical Point of View*.  
Grice and Strawson, "In Defense of a Dogma"

*Supplemental Readings:*

Ayer, *Language, Truth, and Logic*  
Carnap, "Meaning Postulates"  
Carnap, "Empiricism, Semantics, and Ontology"  
Carnap, "Meaning and Synonymy in Natural Languages"  
Quine, "Truth by Convention" 1936  
Quine, On Carnap's Views on Ontology. 1951  
Quine, Two Dogmas in Retrospect. 1991

#### 2. Analytic/Synthetic II (Visitor: Jerry Fodor) (Feb 2<sup>nd</sup> at Princeton)

*Main Readings:*

Quine "Truth by Convention"  
Quine "Mr. Strawson on Logical Theory"  
Boghossian, "Analyticity Reconsidered"  
Harman, "Analyticity Regained?"  
Harman, "The Death of Meaning"  
Carnap "Meaning Postulates"

*Supplementary Readings:*

Boghossian, "Analyticity, in *A Companion to the Philosophy of Language* 1997, pp. 331-368.

#### 3. The reconstruction of meaning on an empiricist basis: Radical translation, indeterminacy, and ontological relativity (Feb 9<sup>th</sup> at Rutgers)

*Main Readings:*

Carnap, "Meaning and Synonymy in Natural Languages"  
Quine, *Word and Object*, 1960, Chapters 1 and 2  
Quine, Ontological Relativity. 1968

*Supplemental Readings:*

Quine, On the Reasons for Indeterminacy of Translation 1970  
Quine, Three Indeterminacies. 1990  
Quine, Indeterminacy Without Tears. 1994  
Harman, "The Death of Meaning"

#### 4. Ontology and Ontological commitment (Feb 16<sup>th</sup> at Princeton)

*Main Readings:*

Quine, On What There Is. (1948)  
Quine, Identity, Ostension, and Hypostasis. 1950

*Supplemental Readings:*

Scheffler and Chomsky, "What Is Said To Be" (PAS 1958-59)  
Quine, A Logistic Approach to the Ontological Problem (written in 1939 but not published until 1966 in *Ways of Paradox*)  
Quine, Logic and the Reification of Universals (in *From a Logical Point of View*)

#### 5. Modality (Guest Presentation: Barry Loewer) (Feb 23<sup>rd</sup> at Rutgers)

*Main Readings:*

Quine, Reference and Modality  
Quine, Three Grades of Modal Involvement

*Supplemental Reading*

Kaplan, "Quantifying In"  
Parsons, "Essentialism and Quantified Modal Logic"  
Marcus, "Extensionality"  
Kripke, "Naming and Necessity"

## 6. Truth and Meaning: the role of a truth theory in providing a compositional meaning theory (March 2<sup>nd</sup> at Princeton)

### Main Readings:

Davidson, Theories of Meaning and Learnable Languages, 1965  
Davidson, Truth and Meaning, 1967

### Supplemental Readings:

Davidson, Semantics for Natural Languages, 1970  
Davidson, In Defense of Convention T, 1973

## 7. Reference (March 9th at Rutgers)

### Main Readings:

Quine, Word and Object, 1960, Chapters 3 and 4

### Supplemental Readings:

Quine, The Roots of Reference (1973)

## 8. Regimentation (Guest Presentation: Jim Higginbotham) (March 23<sup>rd</sup> at Rutgers)

### Main Readings:

Quine, Word and Object, 1960, Chapters 5, 6 and 7.

### Supplemental Readings:

Harman, "Quine on Meaning and Existence" Part 2.  
Quine, Davidson on Events, 1984  
Higginbotham, J. "On Events in Linguistic Semantics." James Higginbotham, Fabio Pianesi, and Achille Varzi (eds.), *Speaking of Events*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2000. pp. 4

## 9. Agency (Guest Presentation: Kirk Ludwig) (March 30<sup>th</sup> at Princeton)

### Main Readings:

Davidson, Actions, Reasons and Causes, 1963

### Supplemental Readings:

Davidson, How is weakness of the will possible? 1970  
Davidson, Agency, 1971  
Davidson, Freedom to Act, 1973  
Davidson, Intending, 1978  
Davidson, Problems in the Explanation of Action, 1987

## 10. Radical Interpretation: the role of radical interpretation in Davidson's account of meaning (April 6<sup>th</sup> at Rutgers)

### Main Readings:

Davidson, Radical Interpretation, 1973  
Davidson, Belief and the Basis of meaning, 1974

### Supplemental Readings:

Davidson Thought and Talk, 1975  
Davidson, Reply to Foster, 1976  
Davidson, The Structure and Content of Truth

## 11. Propositional Attitudes (April 13<sup>th</sup> at Princeton)

### Main reading:

Quine, Quantifiers and Propositional Attitudes. 1956  
Davidson, On Saying That, 1967

### Supplemental Readings:

Quine, On Mental Entities. 1953  
Quine, Propositional Objects. 1968  
Quine, Mind and Verbal Dispositions. 1975

## 12. Logical Form (April 20<sup>th</sup> at Rutgers)

### Main Reading:

Davidson, "The Logical Form of Action Sentences"

### Supplementary Reading:

Terence Parsons, "Some problems concerning the logic of grammatical modifiers." (Synthese 21: 1970).  
Parsons, *Events in the Semantics of English*. MIT Press: 1990.

## 13. Ontology and Ontological commitment (Guest Presentation: Gideon Rosen) (April 27<sup>th</sup> at Princeton)

### Main Readings:

Quine, Ontological Reduction and the World of Numbers 1964  
Quine, Existence. 1970  
Quine, Things and Their Place in Theories, in *Theories and Things*, 1980

### Supplemental Readings:

Quine, Ontology and Ideology. 1951  
Quine, On Carnap's Views on Ontology. 1951  
Quine, Semantics and Abstract Objects 1951  
Quine, The Scope and Language of Science 1957  
Quine, Speaking of Objects. 1958

**14. Naturalized epistemology (Guest Presentation: Thomas Kelly) (May 4<sup>th</sup> at Princeton)**

*Main Readings:*

Quine, *Natural Kinds*. 1969

Quine, *Epistemology Naturalized*. 1971

*Supplemental Readings:*

Quine, *The Nature of Natural Knowledge* 1975

Quine, *Naturalism; Or, Living Within One's Means* 1995

Quine, *Five Milestones of Empiricism*

Quine, *Intensions Revisited*. 1977

Quine, *On Simple Theories of a Complex World* 1963.

Quine, *States of Mind* 1985