Course Description
This course is an investigation of various topics in the philosophy of language. The primary ones are meaning, reference, speech acts, and the relation of mind and language. The relation between linguistics and philosophy will also catch our attention. Should we get that far, we will also touch on some issues concerning realism and the nature of philosophy itself. This will take us through some of the fundamental issues in the field. Our investigations will be aided by original sources, about 20 journal articles or book chapters, as well as the textbook. The format of the course will be lecture/discussion. I hope there will be a good deal of discussion, but this is as much your responsibility as mine.

Course Requirements
You will write two short (5-8 page) critical papers, take an in-class midterm examination, and write a take-home final examination. The first paper is due September 15, the midterm is October 13, the second paper is due November 10, and the final is due December 13. Each effort is worth 20% of your grade. The remaining 20% will be determined by useful class participation. While I will not be taking attendance, you will be responsible for all of the material covered in class and any announcements (including changes in the scheduled reading assignments) that might be made. Obviously enough, if you’re not in class you’re not contributing usefully to the class discussion; less obviously, you might be in class and talking and yet not contributing usefully. While I will have more to say about the nature of your papers later, please note the word ‘critical’ in the phrase ‘critical papers’ – your discussion should include a critical element rather than just be expository.

465H: As above, except that instead of a take-home final you will write a 10-15 page paper discussing one of the topics covered in the course. I expect you to discuss what you plan to write about and what sources you expect to use with me. I will be happy to spend a lot of time with you on this if you start early enough. If you wait until the last minute, on the other hand, I’ll be even more pressed for time than you will.

Here are various other administrative matters. 1. Anyone with a disability that requires special arrangements should see me as soon as possible to establish those arrangements, which I will be happy to do. 2. Plagiarism, turning in work that is not entirely your own, is a serious form of academic dishonesty whose discovery will be rewarded with a failing grade, and perhaps a report of academic dishonesty to the Dean of Students. You are free, indeed encouraged, to discuss the various topics we take up with others and read as widely as you like from traditional and on-line sources, but your written work must be your own. For more on this, see http://www.purdue.edu/odos/osrr/integrity.htm. 3. While I accept late papers, your grade
(including pluses and minuses) goes down one notch for each calendar day a paper (or the final) is late unless you have a legitimate medical or other excuse. A similar excuse would be required for missing the midterm. Having a big physics exam or a Shakespeare paper due at the same time is not an excuse, but rather the way college works. 4. In order to earn a passing grade in the course you must complete all the assignments, even if you’re taking it P/NP.

**Tentative schedule of readings & definite schedule of assignments**

This is the most we might do during the semester, although I have evidence that we can in fact do it all. While there is such a thing as getting bogged down and needing to move on, I have no objection to spending more time discussing some of the readings in more detail than this schedule allows and lopping off some of the later chapters in the Devitt and Sterelny book. By the way, “D&S” refers to that book, while other entries are for readings in the course packet, which should be in the order listed. Reading assignments will be adjusted in class if and as needed.

Dates for papers and exams are on the other hand fixed.

- **8/21** – no assignment
- **8/23** – D&S, Ch. 1 (background), Ch. 2
- **8/25** – selection from Frege, “On Sense and Reference”
- **8/28** – Searle, “Proper Names”
- **8/30** – selection from Kripke, “Naming and Necessity”
- **9/1** – D&S, Ch. 3
- **9/4** – Labor Day, no class
- **9/6** – D&S, Ch. 4
- **9/8** – Putnam, “Meaning and Reference”; D&S, sect. 5.1-5.6
- **9/11** – Putnam/D&S 5.1-5.6 again

**FIRST PAPER DUE**

- **9/18** – Donnellan, “Reference and Definite Descriptions”; D&S, sect. 5.7 & 5.8
- **9/20** – Kaplan, “Dthat”
- **9/22** – D&S, Ch. 6
- **9/25** – D&S, Ch. 6 again
- **9/27** – Grice, “Meaning”; D&S, sect 7.1-7.4
- **9/29** – D&S, sect. 7.5-7.7
- **10/2** – Davidson, “Truth and Meaning”
- **10/4** – Strawson, “Meaning and Truth”
- **10/6** – Chomsky, selection from “The Object of Inquiry”
- **10/9** – Octoberbreak, no class
- **10/11** – D&S, sect. 8.1-8.6
- **10/13** – D&S, sect. 8.7-8.10
- **10/16** – **MIDTERM** (in class exam)
- **10/18** – D&S, Ch. 9
- **10/20** – D&S, Ch. 10
10/23 – Austin, “Performative Utterances”
10/30 – Grice, “Logic and Conversation”
11/1 – Davidson, “What Metaphors Mean”
11/3 – Bergmann, “Metaphorical Assertions”
11/6 – Martinich, “A Theory for Metaphor”
11/8 – D&S, sect. 11.1 & 11.2
11/10 – D&S, sect. 11.3 & 11.4

SECOND PAPER DUE

11/13 – D&S, Ch. 12
11/15 – D&S, Ch. 12 again
11/17 – D&S, Ch. 13
11/20 – D&S, Ch. 13 again
11/22 – Thanksgiving break
11/24 – Thanksgiving break
11/27 – D&S, Ch. 14
11/29 – no class, I have an all-day meeting potentially
12/1 – D&S, Ch. 14 again
12/4 – D&S, Ch. 15
12/6 – D&S, Ch. 15 again
12/8 – holdovers, or whatever you wish to revisit
12/13 – FINAL EXAM (465) OR PAPER (465H) DUE. You may leave it with a secretary or in my mailbox in the departmental office.