

PHIL 4351/5351 — SAUL KRIPKE

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Office Thursday, 1-3,
Hours & by appointment

Free and open discussion is the life-blood of philosophy. Consequently, no student shall be discriminated against on the basis of race, gender, disability, place of national origin, sexual orientation, religious affiliation, political affiliation or any other similar factor. I expect all members of the class to be equally tolerant of differing perspectives and ideologies. Critique, evaluate and analyze the ideas put forward by me and others; do not demean or belittle them.

Saul Kripke is arguably the most influential philosopher of the last one hundred years. His work has fundamentally restructured almost every facet of philosophy – philosophy of language, philosophy of mind, philosophy of science, epistemology, metaphysics and ethics. At the same time, Kripke's work is based on highly technical work in logic, the area in which he made his early contributions (in the form of developing a model theory for modal logic). For this reason, it is difficult to fully appreciate the breadth and impact of his work without some understanding of the formal details that animate it. We will aim to walk a balance between grasping the overall breadth of Kripke's work in light of this formal background without getting "lost in the weeds" of that technical work.

Course Objectives: First and foremost the goal is to explore some new intellectual terrain. That's it. Why else would you take a course? But if you want specifics:

- To develop a critical understanding of Kripke's work as a systematic philosopher, with a comprehensive view of the world akin to those of Plato and Kant.
- To develop an ability to clearly express and defend not only your own opinions on these matters, but also the views and arguments of others, *particularly those with whom you disagree.*

Materials:

Required

- Saul Kripke, *Naming & Necessity*
- Saul Kripke, *Reference and Existence*
- Course Packet of readings, available on the course site.

Optional

- A good stiff cup of java!

Requirements and Expectations

This course is an upper division philosophy course. Students will be expected to have academic skills commensurate with its level including: the ability to read complex primary source material, the ability to write clear, well-constructed critical essays, and the ability to engage in articulate and respectful discourse. In addition, I expect all students to be prepared and attentive in class. This means coming to class having done reading assignments and having thought about their significance, and while in class being an active listener and contributor. Although I will not take attendance, I do expect you to attend every class meeting. You are responsible for all material and announcements made in class, whether you are present or not. No late assignments will be allowed without a University excuse.

PLEASE NOTE: If you have or suspect you have a physical, learning, or psychological disability and require accommodations, please contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services located in the Union Bldg East, room 106 (747-5148).

Evaluation:

- **Critical Essay (50% of total grade):** 3,000-5,000 words.
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The grading scale for this class is given below:

A	B	C	D	F
>89.5%	>79.5%	>69.5%	>59.5%	≤59.5%

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is a concern for everyone. By joining the UTEP community every student agrees to abide by the Scholastic Dishonesty Policy. Any student who commits an act of scholastic dishonesty is subject to discipline. Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, and the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable to another person.

Cheating

- Copying from the test paper of another student
- Communicating with another student during a test
- Giving or seeking aid from another student during a test
- Possession and/or use of unauthorized materials during tests (i.e. Crib notes, class notes, books, etc)
- Substituting for another person to take a test
- Falsifying research data, reports, academic work offered for credit

Plagiarism

- Using someone's work in your assignments without the proper citations
- Submitting the same paper or assignment from a different course, without direct permission of instructors

Collusion

- Unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing academic assignments

Course Schedule:

This is a tentative schedule of classes for the semester. It is a virtual certainty that we will not follow it exactly, so please make sure you know what material we are covering – particularly if you happen to miss class. * Suggested, background material.

Date	Topic	Readings
Section 1	The Description Theory of Names; Modal, Semantic and Epistemic Arguments against the DToFN; Rigid Designation;	Saul Kripke, <i>Naming & Necessity</i> , Ch. 1 Russell, On Denoting Frege, On Sense and Reference
Section 2	Modal Epistemology; Possible Worlds Semantics; Rigid Designation; Causal Theory of Reference; A Posteriorie Necessities	Saul Kripke, <i>Naming & Necessity</i> , Ch. 2 Donnellan, Reference and Definite Descriptions Putnam, The Meaning of "Meaning"
Section 3	General Terms; Mind-Body Problem, Multiple-Realizability Arguments	Saul Kripke, <i>Naming & Necessity</i> , Ch. 3
Section 4	Negative Existentials; Vacuous Reference; Ontology of Fictional Discourse	Saul Kripke, <i>Reference and Existence</i> Saul Kripke, A Puzzle About Belief
Section 5 (time permitting)	The Theory of Truth; Correspondence Theory; Semantic Conception of Truth; Fix-point Theory of Truth	Tarski, The Semantic Conception of Truth Saul Kripke, Outline of a Theory of Truth