# PHIL 158 (Online: Section 80) / Fall 2022
# PHILOSOPHY OF LANGUAGE

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*Philosophy of language is philosophical investigation into language in view of its relation to reality/objects, thought, and logic. It has been considered as one of the core areas of philosophy especially in the setting of contemporary development of philosophy. It has its significance and value in these connections. (1) It has its intrinsic value for philosophical and other intellectual thinking as it provides powerful conceptual and explanatory resources needed for in-depth philosophical exploration. (2) It explores a range of issues that have extensive significance, such as: What is the relationship between language, thought, and the world? What is meaning? How is language communication possible? (3) It is closely related to some other important subjects in philosophy (such as metaphysics, philosophy of mind, logic, epistemology…) and some other disciplines (such as linguistics, psychology, cognitive science…).*

The course as given in Fall 2022 is an "advanced" introduction to the philosophy of language on a range of issues concerning the relationship between language, reality and thought, especially the issues of reference and of predication. To enhance the students' capacity of critical engagement, broaden their command of relevant resources, and deepen their understanding of the addressed issues, the course emphasizes <1> how distinct seemingly-competing approaches can talk to and make joint contribution, <2> how modern scholarship and relevant resources from different traditions using distinct types of language can jointly enhance our understanding and treatment, and <3> how this exploration has its across-the-board significance to a range of fundamental concerns in philosophy. To facilitate these emphases, the course will also explain the instructor's distinct account of how reference in predicative context is possible.

Texts:
<1> *Course Reader* (including classical and seminal resources on the issues under examination);
<2> M. Morris: *An Introduction to the Philosophy of Language* (Cambridge University Press, 2007);
<3> H. Cappelen & J. Dever: *Puzzles of Reference* (Oxford University Press, 2018).
<4> Supplementary readings from Bo Mou (ed.), *Philosophy of Language, Chinese Language, Chinese Philosophy* (Brill, 2018).

*For philosophy-major students who plan to enter Ph.D. programs in philosophy, this course will prepare you in this core area. For those who plan to enter law schools, it will enhance your capacities of conceptual, linguistic and logical analyses. For others, it will help you have due understanding of the fundamental relationship between language, world, and thought and enhance your treatment of its related issues in your interested areas.*