

Theories of Truth
Phil 168/268 – Winter Quarter 2006-2007
Working Syllabus (01/09/07)

Meeting times: Tu Th 2:15-3:30, Room 90-92Q

Instructor: Solomon Feferman

Feferman office hours: Tu Th 3:45-4:30 and by arrangement, Room 380-383Z

Course Description: This will be an introduction to the main philosophical and formal theories of truth, with the emphasis on the latter. The general plan is as follows:

- I. Survey of the main philosophical theories of truth (correspondence theory, coherence theory, pragmatism, verificationism, deflationism)—2 weeks
- II. Deflationism—2 weeks
- III. Tarski's definition of truth—1 week
- IV. Formal theories of truth—3 weeks
- V. Other approaches, time permitting (e.g., revision theory of truth, situation semantics)—2 weeks

Prerequisite: Phil 151/251 (First-Order Logic) or consent of the instructor.

Course work: The course will be conducted in a combined lecture/seminar format. Active participation by students will be required, including presentation of some of the material from the literature. In addition, the work for the course will consist of two papers, the first of 5-7 pages and the second (final) one of 8-10 pages; due dates to be announced later. There will be no homework or examinations. Grade for the course is Letter, with CR/NC optional. 4 units

Readings: There is no required text for the course. A number of articles to be discussed are available in the books on reserve and via the internet. Introductions to the material of Part I above are to be found on the web in the Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy at <http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/truth> and related links (Wikipedia is another possible source).

First reading assignments:

<http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/truth/> by Jan. 16

<http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/truth-correspondence/> by Jan. 16

<http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/truth-deflationary/> by Jan. 23

<http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/truth-coherence/> by Jan. 23

Reserves list and presentation schedule (next page)

The following books will be placed on reserve in Tanner Library:

Introductions and Collections

S. Blackburn and K. Simmons (eds.), *Truth*

D. Gabbay and F. Guenther (eds.), *Handbook of Philosophical Logic* v. 10

P. Horwich (ed.), *Theories of Truth*

R. Kirkham, *Theories of Truth*

M. P. Lynch (ed.), *The Nature of Truth*

F. Schmitt, *Truth: A primer*

More specialized material

J. Barwise and J. Etchemendy, *The Liar*

N. Gupta and N. Belnap, *The Revision Theory of Truth*

R. L. Martin (ed.), *Recent Essays on Truth and the Liar Paradox*

V. McGee, *Truth, Vagueness and Paradox*

S. Soames, *Understanding Truth*

A. Tarski, *Logic, Semantics, Metamathematics* (2nd edn.)

Presentation and discussion schedule:

Jan. 23, F. P. Ramsey, The nature of truth (in Lynch, Ch. 18)

Jan. 25, P. F. Strawson, Truth (in Lynch, Ch. 19)

Jan. 30, P. Horwich, The minimalist conception of truth (in Blackburn-Simmons, Ch. 14)

Feb. 01, A. Gupta, A critique of deflationism (in Lynch, Ch. 23)