

PHIL20030 Meaning, Possibility and Paradox

Credit Points:	12.5		
Level:	2 (Undergraduate)		
Dates & Locations:	2015, Parkville This subject commences in the following study period/s: Semester 2, Parkville - Taught on campus.		
Time Commitment:	Contact Hours: 1 x 2-hour seminar and workshop each week and 1.5 hours of video lectures for preparation for each semester Total Time Commitment: 170 hours		
Prerequisites:	None		
Corequisites:	None		
Recommended Background Knowledge:	Either 12.5 points of philosophy at any level, 12.5 points of linguistics at any level or UNIB10002.		
	Subject	Study Period Commencement:	Credit Points:
	UNIB10002 Logic: Language and Information	Semester 1	12.50
Non Allowed Subjects:	None		
Core Participation Requirements:	For the purposes of considering request for Reasonable Adjustments under the disability Standards for Education (Cwth 2005), and Students Experiencing Academic Disadvantage Policy, academic requirements for this subject are articulated in the Subject Description, Subject Objectives, Generic Skills and Assessment Requirements of this entry. The University is dedicated to provide support to those with special requirements. Further details on the disability support scheme can be found at the Disability Liaison Unit website: http://www.services.unimelb.edu.au/disability/		
Coordinator:	Prof Greg Restall		
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Subject Overview:	<p><i>Meaning</i> is central to many issues in philosophy. The idea that the meaning of complex representation depends on the meanings of its parts is fundamental to the way we understand the mind, language, and logic. In this subject, we look at the different ways that this idea has been understood and applied throughout the 20th Century and into the present day.</p> <p>In the first part of the subject, our focus is on the concepts of necessity and possibility, and the way that 'possible worlds semantics' has been used in theories of meaning. We will focus on the logic of necessity and possibility (modal logic), times (temporal logic), conditionality and dependence (counterfactuals), and the notions of analyticity and a <i>priority</i>, which are central to much philosophy.</p> <p>In the second part of the subject, we will examine closely the assumption that every statement we make is either true or false but not both. We will examine the paradoxes of truth (like the so-called 'liar paradox') and vagueness (the 'sorites paradox'), and we will investigate different ways attempts at resolving these paradoxes by going beyond our traditional views of truth (using 'many valued logics') or by defending the traditional perspective.</p> <p>The subject serves as an introduction to ways that logic is applied in the study of language, epistemology and metaphysics, so it is useful to those who already know some philosophy and would like to see how logic relates to those issues. It is also useful to those who already know some logic and would like to learn new logical techniques and see how these techniques can be applied.</p>		
Learning Outcomes:	Students who successfully complete this subject will:		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> # develop and demonstrate an understanding of the core features of modal logic, including systems of proofs and models, and the distinctive formal features of different systems of modal logic and non-classical logics; # demonstrate an ability to clearly state and prove results in and about modal and non-classical logics; # critically evaluate ways that modal and non-classical logics are applied to issues in the philosophy of language, metaphysics and epistemology; # critically reflect on the strengths and weaknesses of different formal approaches to modelling meaning; # work individually, and in groups, to clarify problems, apply reasoning techniques to different issues, and to critically evaluate the results.
Assessment:	Four tutorial exercises with short answer questions, 50% (due throughout semester), a 2 hour written examination (not open book), 50% (in examination period). Hurdle Requirement: students must attend a minimum of 75% of tutorials in order to pass this subject. Assessment submitted late without an approved extension will be penalised at 10% per day. After five working days late assessment will not be marked. In-class tasks missed without approval will not be marked. All pieces of written work must be submitted to pass this subject.
Prescribed Texts:	Graham Priest: An Introduction to Non-Classical Logic (Cambridge University Press) Subject readings will be available online.
Breadth Options:	<p>This subject potentially can be taken as a breadth subject component for the following courses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> # <u>Bachelor of Biomedicine</u> (https://handbook.unimelb.edu.au/view/2015/B-BMED) # <u>Bachelor of Commerce</u> (https://handbook.unimelb.edu.au/view/2015/B-COM) # <u>Bachelor of Environments</u> (https://handbook.unimelb.edu.au/view/2015/B-ENVS) # <u>Bachelor of Music</u> (https://handbook.unimelb.edu.au/view/2015/B-MUS) # <u>Bachelor of Science</u> (https://handbook.unimelb.edu.au/view/2015/B-SCI) # <u>Bachelor of Engineering</u> (https://handbook.unimelb.edu.au/view/2015/B-ENG) <p>You should visit <u>learn more about breadth subjects</u> (http://breadth.unimelb.edu.au/breadth/info/index.html) and read the breadth requirements for your degree, and should discuss your choice with your student adviser, before deciding on your subjects.</p>
Fees Information:	Subject EFTSL, Level, Discipline & Census Date, http://enrolment.unimelb.edu.au/fees
Links to further information:	http://www.philosophy.unimelb.edu.au/
Related Majors/Minors/Specialisations:	<p>History and Philosophy of Science Philosophy Philosophy Philosophy Philosophy Major</p>