**Philosophy of Language**

Course Code: PHI 3107

**Course Unit: 3**

***Course Description:***

The course considers questions about how we are able to communicate and represent the world by the use of language. It deals, among the rest, with formal semantics and the concept of logical form; truth conditions and assertions conditions; behaviorist and holistic conceptions of language; the role of linguistic intentions; speech-act theory. The course considers the nature and the functions of language, meaning and reference, naming and necessity, theories of description and indexical reference, the language of thought, natural language and artificial language, meaning, truth and analyticity, theories of meaning, the problem of meaning, dimensions of meaning, empirical criteria of meaningfulness and meaninglessness, language as a system of symbols; the notions of symbol; sign and convention; language and reality; the rules of language. Views on the philosophy of language and theory of meaning propounded by some modern and contemporary thinkers are also analysed, like E. Cassirer, F. De Saussure, E. Husserl, L. Wittgenstein, J.R. Searle, M. Merleau-Ponty, P. Ricoeur, N. Chomsky, R. Carnap and P.F. Strawson. The course develops within the context of the African linguistic reality.

***Course Objective:***

The course aims at making students develop skills of philosophical examination of the meanings and structure of language in order to ascertain the objectivity and truth of language statements.

***Learning Objectives***

At the end of the course learners should be able to;

1. appreciate the role of philosophy in linguistic studies
2. critically analyze concepts expressed by language
3. develop skills of identifying systems of language and expressions
4. learn effective and accurate usage of language

***Course Outline***

1. Introduction
2. Philosophical tools and approaches
3. Language as philosophy
4. Languages of Communication
5. Language in Logical empiricism
6. Ordinary language theory
7. Contemporary language theory
8. Jerrod Katz theory of language
9. Peter Achinstein’s contemporary positivist approach

***Methodology***

Lectures, tutorials, guest lecturers, group work, individual presentations

***Assessment Mode***

Course work exercises 30%

End of semester examination 70%

***Reading List***

1. Achinstein, Peter. "Approaches to the Philosophy of Science." *The Legacy of Logical Positivism: Studies in the Philosophy of Science*. Eds. Peter Achinstein and Stephen F. Barker. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins P, 1969.
2. Cirera, Ramon. *Carnap and the Vienna Circle: Empiricism and Logical Syntax*. Trans Dick Edelstein. Amsterdam: Rodopi BV, 1994.
3. Feigl, Herbert. "The Origin and Spirit of Logical Positivism." *The Legacy of Logical Positivism: Studies in the Philosophy of Science*. Eds. Peter Achinstein and Stephen F. Barker. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins P, 1969.
4. Katz, Jerrold J. *The Philosophy of Language*. New York: Harper & Row, 1966.
5. Malcolm, Norman. *Nothing is Hidden: Wittgenstein's Criticism of his Early Thought*. Oxford: Basil Blackwell, 1986.
6. Moravcsik, J.M.E. *Understanding Language: A Study of Theories in Linguistics and in Philosophy*. The Hague: Mouton, 1975.
7. Qadir, C.A. *Logical Positivism*. Lahore: Ripon P, 1965.
8. Quine, Willard van Orman. "Two Dogmas of Empiricism." *Readings in the Philosophy of Language*. Eds. Jay F. Rosenberg & Charles Travis. Englewood Cliffs: Prentice Hall, 1971.
9. Rahim, Syed Ataur. *Logical Positivism and Metaphysics*. Hussainabad/Karachi: Rahim P, 1990.
10. Sengupta, Kalyan Kumar. *Language and Philosophy*. Bombay: Allied P, 1969.