

Philosophy 232: Epistemology

Topic: Truth

Gila Sher

Fall 2012

Office Hour: T 3-4

Syllabus

T 10/2 *Introduction to Class*

T 10/9 *Tarski's Theory of Truth*

Required Reading:

A. Tarski: "The Concept of Truth in Formalized Languages", Intro, §1-3 (1933)

Optional Reading:

1. A. Tarski: "The Establishment of Scientific Semantics" (1936)
2. A. Tarski: "On the Concept of Logical Consequence" (1936)
3. A. Tarski: "The Semantic Conception of Truth" (1944)
4. S. Kripke: "Outline of a Theory of Truth" (1975)
5. D. Davidson: "In Defence of Convention T" (1973)
6. S. Blackburn: *Spreading the Word* (1984), Ch. 8.
7. R.L. Kirkham: *Theories of Truth* (1992), Ch. 5.
8. S. Soames: *Understanding Truth* (1999), Part II.
9. G. Sher: "What Is Tarski's Theory of Truth?" (1999)
10. G. Sher: "Truth, the Liar, and Tarski's Semantics" (2001)

T 10/16 *Deflationist Approaches to Truth*

Required Reading:

1. H. Field: "Tarski's Theory of Truth" (1972)
2. P. Horwich: *Truth* (1990/98)
3. A. Gupta: "A Critique of Deflationism" (1993)

Optional Reading:

1. F.P. Ramsey: "On Facts and Propositions" (1927)
2. A.J. Ayer: *Language, Truth and Logic* (1936)
3. H. Field: "The Deflationary Conception of Truth" (1986)
4. H. Putnam: "Does the Disquotational Theory Really Solve All Philosophical Problems" (1991)
5. R.L. Kirkham: *Theories of Truth* (1992), Ch. 10.
6. H. Field: "Deflationist Views of Meaning and Content" (1994)
7. W.P. Alston: *A Realist Conception of Truth* (1996), Ch. 1, § ix-xii.

8. P. Horwich: "The Minimalist Conception of Truth" (1998)
9. S. Soames: *Understanding Truth* (1999), Ch. 8.

T 10/23

Substantivist Approaches to TruthRequired Reading:

G. Sher: "In Search of a Substantive Theory of Truth" (2002)

Optional Reading:

1. I. Kant: *Critique of Pure Reason* (1781, 1787), "Introduction" to "Transcendental Logic", III; "The Regulative Employment of the Ideas of Pure Reason".
2. W. James: "Pragmatism" (1907), Lecture IV
3. L. Wittgenstein: *Philosophical Investigations* (1953/8)
4. P. Kitcher: "Explanatory Unification" (1981)
5. D. Davidson: "The Structure and Content of Truth" (1990)
6. M. David: *Correspondence & Disquotatation - An Essay on the Nature of Truth* (1994)
7. M. Devitt: "The Metaphysics of Truth" (2000)
8. I. Hacking: "The Disunities of the Sciences" (1996)
9. G. Sher: "On the Possibility of a Substantive Theory of Truth" (1998/9)

T 10/30

Monism vs. Pluralism with Respect to TruthRequired Reading:

1. C. Wright: "Truth: A Traditional Debate Reviewed" (1999)
2. M.P. Lynch: "A Functionalist Theory of Truth" (2001)
3. T. Horgan: "Contextual Semantics & Metaphysical Realism: Truth as Indirect Correspondence" (2002).

Optional Reading:

1. C. Wright: *Truth & Objectivity* (1992)
2. M.P. Lynch: "Truth & Multiple Realizability" (2004)
3. M.P. Lynch: *Truth as One & Many* (2009)
4. C. Tappelot: "Mixed Inferences: A Problem for Pluralism about Truth Predicates" (1997)
5. G. Sher: "Functional Pluralism" (2005)
6. G. Sher: "Forms of Correspondence: The Intricate Route from Thought to Reality" (Forthcoming).
7. T. Horgan & R. Barnard: "Truth as Mediated Correspondence" (2006)

T 11/6

Realism, Correspondence & the Grounding of Knowledge in RealityRequired Reading:

1. M. Dummett: "Realism" (1978)
2. H. Putnam: "Realism & Reason" (1976)
3. M. Devitt: *Realism & Truth* - Part II (1984/91)

Optional Reading:

1. M. Dummett: "Truth" (1958-9)
2. H. Putnam: *Realism & Reason* - Introduction (1983)
3. H. Putnam: "The Antinomy of Realism" (1999)
4. W. Alston: "Yes, Virginia, There Is a Real World" (1979)
5. W.P. Alston: "A Realist Conception of Truth" (2001)
6. M. Devitt: *Designation* (1981)
7. D. Papineau: *Reality & Representation* (1987)
8. R. Boyd: "Truth Through Thick & Thin" (2001)
9. F. Jackson: "Representation, Truth & Realism" (2006)
10. A. Newman: *The Correspondence Theory of Truth* (2002)
11. G. Vision: *Veritas* (2004)
12. R. Fumerton: *Realism & the Correspondence Theory of Truth* (2002)
13. W. Alston: *A Realist Conception of Truth* (1996)
14. S. Kripke: *Naming & Necessity* (1972)

T 11/13

Truth in Mathematics & LogicRequired Reading:

1. "What Numbers Could Not Be?" (1965)
2. P. Benacerraf: "Mathematical Truth" (1973)
3. H. Putnam: "What Is Mathematical Truth?" (1975)
4. H. Field: *Realism, Mathematics, and Modality* - Introduction, §1,2. (1989)
5. G. Sher: "Composite Correspondence" (Forthcoming)

Reading (Unsorted):

1. W.V. Quine: "Truth by Convention" (1935)
2. W.V. Quine: "Carnap & Logical Truth" (1954)
3. H. Putnam: "Truth & Necessity in Mathematics" (1964)
4. H. Putnam: "The Logic of Quantum Mechanics" (1968/75)
5. H. Putnam: "What is Mathematical Truth?" (1975)
6. H. Putnam: "Models & Reality" (1977)
7. C. Parsons: "Ontology & Mathematics" (1971)
8. C. Parsons: "Quine on the Philosophy of Mathematics" (1983)
9. P. Benacerraf: "What Mathematical Truth Could Not Be - I" (1998)
10. S. Shapiro: "The Status of Logic" (2000)

11. G. Sher: “The Foundational Problem of Logic” (Forthcoming)

T 11/20 ***Truth in Ethics & Philosophy***

Require Reading:

1. S. Blackburn: “Moral Realism” (1973)
2. P. Railton: “Subject-ive and Objective” (1995)
3. R. Dworkin: “Objectivity and Truth: You’d Better Believe It” (1996)

Optional Reading:

1. N.L. Sturgeon: “Moral Explanations” (1984)
2. P. Railton: “Facts & Values” (1986)
3. S. Blackburn: “Morals & Modals” (1987)
4. D.O. Brink: *Moral Realism and the Foundations of Ethics* (1989)
5. A. Gibbard: *Wise Choices, Apt Feelings* (1990)
6. C. Wright: “Truth in Ethics” (1995)
7. D. Wiggins: “Objective and Subjective in Ethics, with Two Postscripts about Truth” (1995)
8. B. Williams: “Truth in Ethics” (1995)
9. S. Blackburn: “Essays in Quasi-Realism” (1993)

T 11/27 ***Kripke’s Alternative to Tarski’s Theory /
Truth & Skepticism /
Truth in Theoretical Science***

T 12/4 ***Conclusion***