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:
2. A. Tarski: “On the Concept of Logical Consequence” (1936)
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.
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)

Optional Reading:
1. F.P. Ramsey: “On Facts and Propositions” (1927)
5. R.L. Kirkham: Theories of Truth (1992), Ch. 10.

**Substantivist Approaches to Truth**

**Required Reading:**

**Optional Reading:**
2. W. James: “Pragmatism” (1907), Lecture IV

**Monism vs. Pluralism with Respect to Truth**

**Required Reading:**

**Optional Reading:**
1. C. Wright: *Truth & Objectivity* (1992)
6. G. Sher: “Forms of Correspondence: The Intricate Route from Thought to Reality” (Forthcoming).
Realism, Correspondence & the Grounding of Knowledge in Reality

Required Reading:
1. M. Dummett: “Realism” (1978)
3. M. Devitt: Realism & Truth - Part II (1984/91)

Optional Reading:
4. W. Alston: “Yes, Virginia, There Is a Real World” (1979)

Truth in Mathematics & Logic

Required Reading:
5. G. Sher: “Composite Correspondence” (Forthcoming)

Reading (Unsorted):
1. W.V. Quine: “Truth by Convention” (1935)
2. W.V. Quine: “Carnap & Logical Truth” (1954)
7. C. Parsons: Ontology & Mathematics” (1971)
11. G. Sher: “The Foundational Problem of Logic” (Forthcoming)

T 11/20  

**Truth in Ethics & Philosophy**

Require Reading:
1. S. Blackburn: “Moral Realism” (1973)

Optional Reading:

T 11/27  

**Kripke’s Alternative to Tarski’s Theory / Truth & Skepticism / Truth in Theoretical Science**

T 12/4  

**Conclusion**