# COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will treat a few topics broached in the vast literature on truth. After a very brief overview of metaphysical theories about truth (correspondence theory, etc.) we will take a look at the formal work of Tarski and Kripke and discuss its importance. Afterwards, we will overview classic work on deflationism, gradually segueing into debates (often between deflationists and inflationists) about the role of truth in theories of cognition, linguistic meaning, assertion, and inference. Finally, we'll discuss whether we can make sense of truthvalue gaps, normative truths, and relative truths.

# COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

The requirements for the course are regular attendance and participation, sending me a short (paragraph-ish-length) note or question about the reading Wednesday night before 9PM, and submitting a 18-25 page (double spaced) research paper by **December 16<sup>th</sup>**. (Respect these length limits.) You may also submit two papers of 9-12 pages by October 18<sup>th</sup> and December 16<sup>th</sup> respectively.

# TEXTS

You can find readings for the class here:

www.jshaw.net/courses/truth.html

The password for these documents is on the syllabus handed out the first day of class. Email if you've lost it.

## SCHEDULE OF TOPICS AND READINGS

The following is what I currently hope we can accomplish. We may find that we should slow down (or if fortune favors us, we may speed up). Starred readings are *optional further reading*.

August 29 Overview of Conceptions of Truth, Preparatory work for Tarski

THE LOGIC OF TRUTH (RUDIMENTS)

September 5 Tarski Tarski, "The Semantic Conception of Truth" Soames, Understanding Truth, Ch. 3 \*Soames, Understanding Truth, Ch. 4 \*Künne, Conceptions of Truth, Ch. 4.1 \*Field, "Tarski's Theory of Truth" \*Heck, "Tarski, Truth, and Semantics"

September 12	Kripke
	Kripke, "Outline of a Theory of Truth"
	*Kremer, "Kripke on the Logic of Truth"

#### THE METAPHYSICS OF TRUTH

- September 19 Deflationism: Disquotationalism & Minimalism Field, "Deflationist Views of Meaning and Content" Horwich, *Truth*, Ch. 1 \*Field,, "Postscript to "Deflationist Views..." \*Horwich, *Truth*, Ch. 2
- September 26 Some Worries... Gupta, "A Critique of Deflationism" Armour-Garb, "Challenges to Deflationary Theories of Truth" \*Bar-On & Simmons, "Deflationism"
- October 3 Inflationism(?) Shaw, A Study of Truth and Metarepresentation, ch. 2

## THEORETICAL ROLES FOR TRUTH?

October 10	Truth and Belief I Wedgwood "The Aim of Belief" Bykvist & Hattiangati "Does Thought Imply Ought?"
October 17	Truth and Belief II Shah & Velleman "Doxastic Deliberation" *Shah "How Truth Governs Belief"
October 24	Truth and Assertion Bar-On & Simmons "The Use of Force Against Deflationism: Assertion and Truth" *Dummett, "Truth" *Williamson, "Knowing and Asserting"
October 31	Truth in Theories of Meaning Bar-On et al., "Deflationism, Meaning, and Truth-conditions" Burgess, "Mainstream Semantics + Deflationary Truth"
November 7	Truth, Inference, and Logic Dorgramaci, "What Makes a Valid Inference a Good Inference?" *Shaw, <i>A Study of Truth and Metarepresentation</i> , ch. 7

## EXTENSIONS AND RESTRICTIONS

November 14	Truth-Value Gaps Shaw, "What is a Truth-Value Gap?" *Dummett, "Truth" *Glanzberg "Against Truth-Value Gaps"
November 21	Non-Cognitivism and Truth Asay, "Truthmaking, Metaethics, and Creeping Minimalism" Schroeder, "How to be an Expressivist about Truth" *Schroeder, "The Moral Truth"
December 5	Relative Truth(?) Spencer, "Relativity and Polyadicity" *MacFarlane, <i>Assessment Sensitivity</i> , Ch.5 *Scharp, "Truth, the Liar, and Relativism"