

PHILOSOPHY OF LANGUAGE IN CLASSICAL INDIA

Fall 2024

(last revised: September 5, 2024)

	INSTRUCTOR	COURSE
NAME:	Brendan S. Gillon	PHIL 415
LOCATION:	1085 Docteur-Penfield rm. 119	Trottier Engineering rm. 1090
TIME:	OFFICE HOURS tba and by appointment	CLASS HOURS: Wd Fr: 11h35–12h55
CONTACT:	brendan.gillon@mcgill.ca	
WEBSITE:	http://webpages.mcgill.ca/staff/group3/bgillo/web/index.htm	

COURSE MATERIAL:

- The course material is either publically available or will be posted on MyCourses.

COURSE CONTENT:

From very early on, philosophers in India were concerned with many of the same metaphysical problems which preoccupied their Indo-European cousins in Greece. It has been generally thought, however, that the Indian philosophical tradition emerged independently from that of Greece. In fact, Indian grammatical thought has had a profound impact on modern linguistics, following discovery by Europeans of the Sanskrit language and of the Indian grammatical tradition. This tradition stretches back over two thousand five hundred years ago. Nothing even remotely approaching the depth and breadth of Indian grammatical tradition appeared in Europe until the middle of the twentieth century, when generative grammar was developed in the middle of the last century.

The course introduces students to this grammatical tradition and then explores the issues in the philosophy of language which flowed through Indian philosophical thought subsequently.

ASSESSMENT:

Students will be assessed according to the following:

- presentation (total 30%)
 - overheads (10%)
 - presentation itself (20%)
- final paper (70%)
 - one statement of topic, 250 words (10%)
 - outline (20%)
 - final version (40%)

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:

- McGill University's statement of academic integrity:

McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences under the code of student conduct and disciplinary procedures. (See www.mcgill.ca/integrity for more information.)

L'Université McGill attache une haute importance à l'honnêteté académique. Il incombe par conséquent à tous les étudiants de comprendre ce que l'on entend par tricherie, plagiat et autres infractions académiques, ainsi que les conséquences que peuvent avoir de telles actions, selon le Code de conduite de l'étudiant et des procédures disciplinaires. (Veuillez consulter le site www.mcgill.ca/integrity pour de plus amples renseignements.)

- Policy on use of generative artificial intelligence (AI) applications:

The written work you submit in this class should represent your own research, thinking and writing. Using AI tools to produce written work limits your learning as a student and misrepresents the skills and achievements that are being assessed in this course. Any use of AI tools for any work submitted for assessment in this course must be approved beforehand by the instructor; otherwise, such use will be deemed a form of cheating and will be reported accordingly to the Disciplinary Officer.

PROCEDURES:

- Attendance is obligatory once the drop add period has ended: you may miss 3 classes without penalty. Thereafter, you will be penalized 2% for each class missed without an excuse.
- Written work may be submitted either in English or in French.
- No late submissions will be accepted, unless arranged for 24 hours ahead of time or accompanied by a certified justification (e.g., a doctor's note).
- Assignments are to be submitted as pdf with the label: phil415-<assignment name>-<last name>.pdf, for example, phil415-asn1-Gillon.pdf

SYLLABUS

WEEK 1	28 Aug	introduction	
	30 Aug	language study: India	
WEEK 2	04 Sep	language study: Europe	
	06 Sep	object lang vs meta lang	Lyons 1977 v. 1, ch. 1 (31)
WEEK 3	11 Sep	Pāṇini	Scharf 2013; Staal 1975
	13 Sep	Pāṇini	Gillon 2007; Scharf 1996 Intro
WEEK 4	18 Sep	Gammarians	Scharf 1996 ch. 1.1–1.2
	20 Sep	Grammarians	Scharf 1996 ch. 1.3
WEEK 5	25 Sep	Grammarians	Scharf 1996 ch. 1.4–1.5
	27 Sep	Grammarians A 1.2.58	Scharf 1996 ch. 1.6–1.9 Scharf 1996 91–99
WEEK 6	02 Oct	A 1.2.64	Scharf 1996 101–126
	04 Oct	A 1.2.64	Scharf 1996 126–149
WEEK 7	09 Oct	no class	
	11 Oct	no class	
WEEK 8	16 Oct	Mīmāṃsā	Scharf 1996 ch. 3.1–3.3
	18 Oct	Mīmāṃsā	Scharf 1996 ch. 3.4–3.5
WEEK 9	23 Oct	Mīmāṃsā	Scharf 1996 ch. 3.6–3.7
	25 Oct	JS 1.1.5, 30–35	Scharf 1996 269–288
WEEK 10	30 Oct	Nyāya	Scharf 1996 ch. 2.1–2.3
	01 Nov	NS 2.2.58–69	Scharf 1996 169–194
WEEK 11	06 Nov	NS 2.2.58–69	Uddyotakara
	08 Nov	NS 2.2.58–69	Uddyotakara
WEEK 12	13 Nov	NS 2.2.58–69	Uddyotakara
	15 Nov	Navyanyāya	Ting 2024 Introduction
WEEK 13	20 Nov	Gaṅgeśa	Ting 2024 ch. 1
	22 Nov	Gaṅgeśa	Ting 2024 ch. 2
WEEK 14	27 Nov	Gaṅgeśa	Ting 2024 ch. 3
	29 Nov	Gaṅgeśa	Ting 2024 ch. 4
WEEK 15	04 Dec	tba	

READINGS: required and supplementary

Allan, Keith (ed) 2013 *The Oxford Handbook of the History of Linguistics*. Oxford, England: Oxford University Press.

Barthakuria, Apurba Chandra 1997 *The Philosophy of Sanskrit Grammar*. Calcutta, India: Punthi-Pustak.

Bronkhorst, Johannes 1999 *Langage et Réalité*. Brepols.

Chakravarti, Prabhat Chandra 1933 *The Linguistic Speculation of the Hindus*. University of Calcutta. [Reprinted: Punthi-Pustak, Calcutta, India 2003]

Gillon, Brendan S. 2007 Pāṇini's *Aṣṭādhyāyī* and linguistic theory. *Journal of Indian Philosophy*: v. 35, n. 5–6, pp. 445–468.

Hymes, Dell H. (ed) 1974 *Studies in the history of linguistics : traditions and paradigms*. Bloomington, Indiana: Indiana University Press.

Jñānaśrīmitra *Aphaprakaraṇa*. Trans. by Parimal Patil.

Kiparsky, Paul 1982 *Some Theoretical Problems in Pāṇini's Grammar*. Poona, India: Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute.

Kunjuni Raja, K. 1963 *Indian Theories of Meaning*. Madras, India: The Adyar Library and Research Center. 2nd edition, 1963.

Matilal, Bimal Krishna 1971 *Epistemology, logic and grammar in Indian Philosophical Analysis*. The Hague, The Netherlands: Mouton.

Patañjali *Paspaśāhnika*. Chatterji, Kshitish Chandra (tr) *Patanjali's Mahabhashya. Paspasahnika*. Calcutta, India: A. Mukherjee and Co. (Usha Memorial Series: n. 7), 3rd edition, 1964.

Patil, Parimal

Ratnakīrti *Apohasiddhi*. Trans. by Parimal Patil.

Rocher, Rosane 1975 India. *Current trends in linguistics*: v. 13 (*Historiography of linguistics*), edited by Thomas A. Sebeok. The Hague, The Netherlands: Mouton.

Scharf, Peter 1996 *The Denotation of Generic Terms in Ancient Indian Philosophy of Language: Grammar, Nyāya and Mīmāṃsā*. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania: American Philosophical Society.

Scharf, Peter M. 2013 Linguistics in India. In: Allan (ed) 2013 ch. 11.

Siderits, Mark 1991 *Indian Philosophy of Language: Studies in Selected Issues*. Dordrecht, The Netherlands: Kluwer (*Studies in Linguistics and Philosophy*: v. 46).

Staal, J. F. 1974 The origin and development of linguistics in India. In: Hymes (ed) 1974 ch. 2 (63–73).

Ting Lee Ling 2024 *Meaning, reference and verbal knowledge in Indian Philosophy : An introduction, translation and commentary on the chapter on Word Meaning in Gaṅgeśa's Jewel of Reflection on the Nature of Things (Tattvacintāmaṇī)*. Unpublished Harvard University PhD dissertation.