Modality, Partiality, and Perspective

Professor Wesley Holliday  
UC Berkeley, Fall 2013

Syllabus

Description

This seminar will address a number of foundational issues concerning “possible worlds-based” approaches to language and thought: total worlds vs. partial situations; partial modal logic; aboutness; indexicals and indices; centered worlds; de se attitudes; and more.

Requirements

- Due the night before each meeting: précis of one of the readings (upload to bSpace).
- Due at the end of the term: research paper of 15-20 pages (upload to bSpace).
- Each participant presents one of the readings for one or more meetings.

Contact

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Schedule

Aug. 29 First Session Rescheduled
Sept. 5 Crash Course in Modal Logic

Partiality

Sept. 12 Worlds and Situations
Reading: Barwise 1981 and Holliday 2013.

Sept. 19 Worlds and Situations

Sept. 26 Partiality in Modal Logic
Reading: Humberstone 1981.

Sept. 27* Partiality in Modal Logic (Friday 11-1 in 234 Moses)
Reading: Humberstone 1981.

Oct. 3 Partiality in Semantics
Recommended reading: Kratzer 2011.

Oct. 10 Aboutness
Reading: Yablo Forthcoming, Ch. 1, Ch. 5.

1The electronic version at philosophy.berkeley.edu/people/page/138 contains hyperlinks to readings and resources.
Oct. 17  Session Rescheduled

Oct. 24  Aboutness
Reading: Yablo Forthcoming, Ch. 2-3.

Oct. 25* Aboutness (Friday 11-1 in 234 Moses)
Reading: Yablo Forthcoming, Ch. 3-4.

Perspective

Oct. 31  Demonstratives
Reading: Kaplan 1989.

Nov. 7  Demonstratives
Reading: Kaplan 1989.

Nov. 14  Indexicality and Perspective
Reading: Perry 1977, Perry 1979 and Cappelen and Dever Forthcoming, Ch. 1-4.

Nov. 21  Indexicality and Perspective
Reading: same as previous session.

Nov. 28  Thanksgiving - No Session

Dec. 5  Indexicality and Perspective (Nov. 28 is a holiday)
Primary reading: Lewis 1979 and Cappelen and Dever Forthcoming, Ch. 5.
Other relevant reading: Lewis 1983 and Ninan Forthcoming.

Readings


Herman Cappelen and Josh Dever. The Inessential Indexical. Oxford University Press, Forthcoming.


