
Phil 6200

Medieval Semantics: Theories of Signification

Uris G26, TR 10.10-11.25

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Course Description

This course will explore how signification - a property of linguistic expressions - had been articulated throughout the medieval period. The notion of signification was central to medieval semantics, but its articulation and role within medieval semantics varies widely. We will begin this course by examining the application of signification to sub-sentential expressions, and then turn to its application to sentential expressions at the end of this course. We will also be concerned with the relationship(s) this property has to other semantic properties, in particular the property of supposition. A persistent question throughout this course will be what relationship, if any, the notion of signification has to the contemporary semantic notions: in particular, reference and meaning.

Readings

All readings will be distributed in English, with Latin editions available on request. Some readings will be made available electronically. But you should purchase the following:

- (1) Freddoso, A. et al. (1991). *William of Ockham: Quodlibetal Questions* (New Haven: Yale University Press)
- (2) Loux, M. (tr.) (1998). *Ockham's Theory of Terms: Part I of the Summa Logicae* (South Bend: St. Augustine's Press)
- (3) King, P. (tr.) (1985). *John Buridan's Logic: The Treatise on Supposition; The Treatise on Consequences*, Translation from the Latin with a Philosophical Introduction (Dordrecht-Boston-Lancaster: Reidel)
- (4) Maloney, T (tr.) (1988). *Roger Bacon: Compendium of the Study of Theology* (Lieden: Brill)

Course Requirements

Presentation: You will be required to provide one 60 minute presentation at some point in this course. Presentations will begin on week 4. A sign-up sheet will be distributed during the second week of class.

Papers: Two papers will be required for this course, one of which can be on the same material as your presentation. The first paper, due roughly in the middle of the semester, must be 10-12 pages. A final paper, due the day of the scheduled exam, must be 20-25 pages. A draft of this second paper will be due during the penultimate week of this course.

	Topic	Reading(s)
Week 1	Ancient Roots: Aristotle and Boethius	<i>De Intrepretatione</i> , Chs 1-8; Selections from Boethius' Second Commentary on <i>De Intrepretatione</i>
Week 2	Augustine	<i>De Dialectica</i> ; <i>De Doctrina Christiana</i> I.1, II.1-8
Week 3	Abelard	<i>Dialectica</i> ; Commentary on the <i>De Intrepretatione</i> from the <i>Logica 'Ingredientibus'</i>
Week 4	Roger Bacon	On Signs; Compendium of the Study of Theology, Pt. 2
Week 5	Speculative Grammar	Boethius of Dacia's <i>Modi Significandi</i> , qq. 1-10; 13-18, 24-28
Week 6	William of Sherwood & Peter of Spain	Sherwood's <i>Introduction to Logic</i> , chs. 1, 5; Peter of Spain's <i>Summaries of Logic</i> , Tract 7
Week 7	Walter Burley	Questions on the <i>De Intrepretatione</i> , q. 1; Second Literal Commentary on the <i>Perihermeneias</i>
Week 8	Walter Burley	On the Purity of the Art of Logic, Longer Treatise, Tract 1
Week 9	Walter Burley	Questions on the <i>De Intrepretatione</i> , q. 3; On the Old Logic: <i>Categories</i> and <i>De Intrepretatione</i>
Week 10	William Ockham	Ockham's Theory of Terms, chs. 1-13, 30-33
Week 11	William Ockham	Ockham's Theory of Terms, chs. 63-77
Week 12	William Ockham	Prologue to the <i>Physics</i> Commentary; <i>Quodlibetal</i> Qq. 1.6, 3.12
Week 13	John Buridan	<i>Summulae de Dialectica</i> , Treatises 1.1-3, 4
Week 14	Albert of Saxony	Questions Concerning Logic (Albert of Saxony's Twenty-five Disputed Questions on Logic)
Week 15	Peter d'Ailly	Peter of Ailly: Concepts and Insolubles