PHIL 8330: Faces of Metaphor
Fall 2022 (CRN 87752)
25 Park Place. Rm 1618 | Fri. 9:30-12:00

Instructor: Professor Daniel Weiskopf
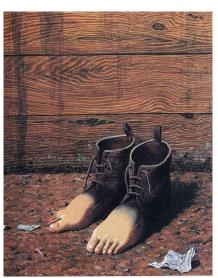Email: dweiskopf@gsu.edu
Office hours (Webex): Mon. 2:00-4:00

Reality is a cliché
From which we escape by metaphor
It is only *au pays de la métaphore*
Qu'on est poète.

– Wallace Stevens, *Opus Posthumous*

COURSE OVERVIEW

Course overview
Metaphor and other forms of figurative language saturate everyday discourse and thought. Beyond the realms of literature and poetry, metaphor is central to scientific inquiry, medical and psychiatric practice, religious life, and political debate. Our central questions here will include: How do metaphors achieve their effects? How do we creatively deploy linguistic, psychological, and sociocultural resources in making and interpreting metaphors? How can metaphors provide us with distinctive insights or ways of understanding? Are there things that can only be said or thought using metaphor? Can there be visual, pictorial, or cinematic metaphors? What values do metaphors convey?

Rene Magritte, Le model rouge (1935)

Course objectives
The goal of this course is to acquaint you with some central discourse and debates in theorizing about metaphor. Metaphor and figuration generally are theorized across many fields, including philosophy, poetics and literary studies, psychology, linguistics, neuroscience, history of science and medicine, and more. Given the supradisciplinary nature of the subject, our approach will necessarily be eclectic. This course will both help you to master the readings we will cover and prepare you to carry out your own independent research on these topics.

Prerequisites
Graduate standing or permission of instructor.

READINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS

<u>Assignments</u>
The points available for the class break down as follows (no extra credit):

Discussion posts   25%
Final paper   75%

Seminars are intellectual communities. I expect you to attend every class, to be prepared to talk about the readings in some depth, and to strive to be a regular and thoughtful participant.

Discussion posts. Online discussions will happen on Perusall, a platform that allows participants to read and collectively annotate documents. You will be taking part in discussion of the required class readings in collaboration with everyone else in the class (including me). You can help each other answer questions about the text, refine objections, develop new lines of thought, and also go down as many rabbit holes as you like. These discussions will help you to build a shared understanding of the readings and give us useful starting points for our in-class discussion.

You can start a new annotation thread in Perusall by highlighting text and then asking a question or posting a comment. You can also add a reply or comment to an existing thread and you can upvote interesting questions or comments. Comments, replies, and upvotes will count towards annotation credit. Contribute **at least 5** annotations on the assigned readings. Complete your annotations by **Wed., 5:00pm** before our class meeting if you want them to count for credit. No annotations are required on Week 1. You can start annotating any assigned readings ahead of time. You can also reply to other people's comments after the deadline (for credit if the reply is within 1 day of the deadline), and I encourage you to do so. Your final discussion grade will be based on your top 10 weekly annotation scores, so you can skip up to two weeks of annotations and still get full credit for annotations. Here are some scoring samples and Perusall FAQs.

Final paper. This is a research paper of 3000 to 5000 words. In this paper you are expected to motivate, develop, and defend a substantial position of your own. The topic may be anything that we have covered in class, or that bears a plausible, well-motivated relation to the course content. Paper topics must be cleared with me in advance, and you must meet with me to discuss your proposed final paper topic no later than **Fri., 11/4/22**. The paper will be due on **Wed., 12/7/22 at noon**.

<h1 style="text-align:center;color:red">SCHEDULE OF READINGS</h1>

Our weekly discussions will focus on the required readings. These are the ones that are in Perusall for you to comment on. The supplementary readings are strictly optional. They provide general background or deeper discussions of some of the points in the required readings.

8/26   Classical Meets Contemporary

<u>Required:</u>
Aristotle, Selections from *Rhetoric* and *Poetics*
Max Black, "Metaphor"

<u>Supplementary:</u>
Paul Ricoeur, *The Rule of Metaphor* (Ch. 1)
Max Black, "More on metaphor"

9/2   Metaphorical Twists and Transfers

<u>Required:</u>
Monroe Beardsley, "The metaphorical twist"
Nelson Goodman, *Languages of Art* (Ch. 2)

<u>Supplementary:</u>
Paul Henle, "Metaphor"
I. A. Richards, *The Philosophy of Rhetoric* (Lectures V and VI)

9/9   Metaphor as Speech Act

<u>Required:</u>
John Searle, "Metaphor"
Paul Grice, "Logic and conversation"

<u>Supplementary:</u>
John Searle, "Literal meaning"
Ted Cohen, "Figurative speech and figurative acts"

9/16   Against Metaphorical Meaning

<u>Required:</u>
Donald Davidson, "What metaphors mean"
Marga Reimer, "Davidson on metaphor"

<u>Supplementary:</u>
William Lycan, "An irenic idea about metaphor"
Lynne Tirrell, "Reductive and nonreductive simile theories of metaphor"

9/23 **Metaphor and Relevance Theory**

Required:
Deirdre Wilson and Robyn Carston, "Metaphor, relevance, and the 'emergent property' issue"
Josef Stern, "Metaphor, literal, literalism" (Sect. 1-3)

Supplementary:
Robyn Carston, "Metaphor: *Ad hoc* concepts, literal meaning and mental images"
François Recanati, "Literal/Nonliteral"

9/30 **Force, Image, and Perspective**

Required:
Paul Ricoeur, "The metaphorical process as cognition, imagination, and feeling"
Richard Moran, "Seeing and believing: Metaphor, image, and force"

Supplementary:
Marcus Hester, "Metaphor and aspect seeing"
Ted Cohen, "Metaphor and the cultivation of intimacy"

10/7 **Metaphor as Conflation**

Required:
Roger White, *The Structure of Metaphor* (Chs. 4, 5, 6)

Supplementary:
Lynne Tirrell, "Extending: The structure of metaphor"
Harold Skulsky, "Metaphorese"

10/14 Metaphor as Make-Believe

Required:
Kendall Walton, "Metaphor and prop-oriented make-believe"
David Hills, "The what and the how of metaphorical imagining, Part One"

Supplementary:
Kendall Walton, "Existence as metaphor?"
Catherine Wearing, "Metaphor, idiom, and pretense"

10/21 Conceptual Metaphor Theory

Required:
George Lakoff, "The contemporary theory of metaphor"
Raymond Gibbs Jr. and Nicole Wilson, "Bodily action and metaphorical meaning"

Supplementary:
Gregory Murphy, "On metaphoric representation"
George Lakoff, "Mapping the brain's metaphor circuitry: Metaphorical thought in everyday reason"

10/28 Metaphor as Structure-Mapping and Categorization

Required:
Dedre Gentner and Brian Bowdle, "Metaphor as structure-mapping"
Sam Glucksberg, *Understanding Figurative Language* (Chs. 3 and 4)

Supplementary:
Keith Holyoak and Dušan Stameković, "Metaphor comprehension: A critical review of theories and evidence"
Kevin Dunbar, "The analogical paradox: Why analogy is so easy in naturalistic settings, yet so difficult in the psychological laboratory"

11/4 Scientific Metaphor

Required:
Richard Boyd, "Metaphor and theory change: What is 'metaphor' a metaphor for?"
Mary Hesse, "The explanatory function of metaphor"

Supplementary:
Kai Niebert and Harald Gropengießer, "Understanding starts in the mesocosm: Conceptual metaphor as a framework for external representations in science teaching"
Massimo Pigliucci and Maarten Boudry, "Why machine-information metaphors are bad for science and science education"

11/11 Poetry and Paraphrase

Required:
Peter Lamarque, "Semantic finegrainedness and poetic value"
Gregory Currie and Jacopo Frascaroli, "Poetry and the possibility of paraphrase"

Supplementary:
Cleanth Brooks, "The heresy of paraphrase"
Elisabeth Camp, "Metaphor and that certain *je ne sais quoi*"

11/18 Visual Metaphor

Required:
Richard Wollheim, "Painting, metaphor, and the body"
Noel Carroll, "Visual metaphor"

Supplementary:
Trevor Whittock, *Metaphor and Film* (Ch. 5)
Charles Forceville, *Pictorial Metaphor in Advertising* (Ch. 6)

11/25 Thanksgiving Break; No class

12/2 Metaphor and Values

Required:
Elisabeth Camp, "Why metaphors make good insults: Perspectives, presupposition, and pragmatics"
Rachel Fraser, "The ethics of metaphor"

Supplementary:
Susan Sontag, *Illness as Metaphor*
Donald Schön, "Generative metaphor: A perspective on problem-setting in social policy"

12/7 Final paper due