

## langue out on parole

(CL/CSTC, Fall, 2014/15)

Accomplished mechanisms of capture often dream of becoming carceral systems. So did language, after escaping the slaughterhouses of onto-theology and of idealism (at least, according to Nietzsche and de Saussure). Become universal, *langue* covered much of the 20<sup>th</sup> century with the watershed of its schemata and turns, until, captive to and of itself, started attempting to get out. These attempts were as singular as the stuff universals are made of. "Langue out on parole" would define the present status of language in the age where the post's are past, if it weren't for the simulacral character of definitions. However, the singular provides not only the escape from language's self-trapping; it is also the locus where all other escapees converge, whether they come from grand-theoretical, authoritarian or totalitarian systems.

This course, exercising with various shibboleths to freedom, takes up the theories of language from pre-Babel on. Inane all-inclusiveness gathers Indian material grammar and utopian languages (Adam, John Wilkins, Esperanto), zoo-semiotics and Heidegger, Derrida and Chomsky, Wittgenstein, Port Royal and Lacan, Barthes and Quintilian, Aristotle and Plato and Mallarmé.

### Course requirements

Class participation	30%
Class presentation	20%
Final essay	50%

### Syllabus

0 – Introductory public lecture: "Mystics, quantum, fragrance, ouch! (what in language is not)"

1 – The question of language

Language Prison as a Freak of Nature (Nietzsche, de Man)

The fifth power: body-soul-spirit-mind-language

Semiotics: Peirce, Saussure

2 – Cratylics

Plato, *Cratylus*

Transubstantiation / Consubstantiation

3 – Zoo & Anthro

Nietzsche

Malinowski

Lévi-Strauss

Bateson

4 – Language Being Unconscious

Freud  
Heidegger  
Lacan

5 – Two Rhetorics

Aristotle to Chomsky  
Longinus to de Man

6 – Gaming language

Zeno  
Wittgenstein  
cybernauts

7 – Pragmatics

Mallarmé  
Austin

8 – Babbling, Babel and Perfection

Kabbalah  
Borges, “The Analytic Language of John Wilkins”  
Deleuze  
Lecerle  
Eco, *In Search of the Perfect Language*

8 – Who Says?

Moses  
Benveniste  
Kristeva

9 – Do You Speak Woodie?

Receive Ideas (Flaubert)  
Wooden Tonguelese (Stalin, Hitler, etc.)  
VVC – Carnap and the Vienna Vicious Circle  
Infomania

11 – Deconstruction & Dadastruction

Derrida, etc.  
Tzara  
Joyce  
Language poets

12 – Poetry’s Language’s Death

Blanchot  
Yves Bonnefoy  
Nancy

Full biblio to follow