

The Nature of Truth

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The main text is *The Nature of Truth*, edited by Michael Lynch and published by MIT Press. This contains many of the most influential historical and contemporary readings on the nature of truth. Relevant parts of the book will be posted to the course's Moodle page. I'll also put other readings on Moodle from time to time. In addition, the Moodle page will contain other course materials (e.g. syllabus, class handouts, guided questions, important dates). Please check it regularly.

Other readings you might find helpful:

- The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy has excellent overviews of some of the topics we'll discuss. (I especially recommended the entries on truth, the correspondence theory of truth, the coherence theory of truth, pragmatism, pluralist theories of truth, Tarski's truth definitions, the deflationary theory of truth, and the liar paradox).
- Richard Kirkham: *Theories of Truth: A Critical Introduction* (MIT Press). A good introduction to theories of truth.
- Burgess & Burgess: *Truth* (Princeton University Press). Another good introduction, focusing on deflationism.
- Scott Soames: *Understanding Truth* (OUP). Among other things, contains a very nice discussion of the impact of the liar paradox on theorising about truth.

Week 1: **Introduction & correspondence theories**

Lynch's Intro (1-15)

Alston: A Realist Conception of Truth

Week 2: **Coherence theories**

Lynch's Intro (99-102)

Walker: The Coherence Theory of Truth

Week 3: **Pragmatism I: truth and verification**

Lynch's Intro (183-193)

Dummett: Truth

Putnam: Two Philosophical Perspectives

Week 4: **Pragmatism II: truth and inquiry**

Rorty: Is Truth a Goal of Inquiry?

Price: Truth as Convenient Friction

Week 5: **Tarskian truth I**

Lynch's Intro (323-329)

Tarski: The Semantic Conception of Truth

Week 6: **Tarskian truth II: correspondence and deflationism**

Field: Tarski's Theory of Truth

Soames: What is a Theory of Truth?

Week 7: **Truth and the semantic paradoxes**

Kripke: Outline of a Theory of Truth

Field: Saving Truth From Paradox (excerpts)

Week 8: **Pluralism**

Lynch: A Functionalist Theory of Truth

Wright: Truth: a Traditional Debate Reviewed

Week 9: **Deflationism I**

Lynch's Intro (421-431)

Ramsey: The Nature of Truth

Piccolo & Schindler: Deflationism and the Function of Truth

Week 10: **Deflationism II**

Field: The Deflationary Conception of Truth

Gupta: A Critique of Deflationism

Devitt: The Metaphysics of Truth

Week 11: **Truth and objectivity**

Wright: Truth and Objectivity (selections)

Rosen: Objectivity and Modern Idealism