Paper Topics 3: Due Tuesday April 15, 2008

1. Tarski requires convention T for any theory of truth to be adequate. Explain how Tarski’s theory satisfies this requirement and whether his theory differs from the redundancy theory of truth?

2. Indexical expressions are considered problematic for a Fregean analysis of reference. Could a Fregean style analysis give a proper account for indexicals? If so how? If not, why not? Provide examples.

3. First spouse: “I really like it when you fix fish for dinner”
   Second spouse: “Could we eat in a restaurant tonight?”

   Give a Gricean account of both speech acts, then give a Searlean account of both speech acts. In what way are the accounts similar and dissimilar?

4. Searle is committed to the notion that words have literal meaning. But Searle claims that the literal meanings of the words underdetermine their truth conditions. Explain what Searle means by this. Give examples.

5. How does the Background function in Searle’s theory of meaning? Could the notion of a holistic Network be sufficient for this theory?

6. Fiction is problematic for any truth conditional semantics. Is there any way to resolve the problems that fiction provides?

7. Is truth relative? If so, to what? If not, why not?