

# Pragmatics

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# Previously on 201

# Recitation topics

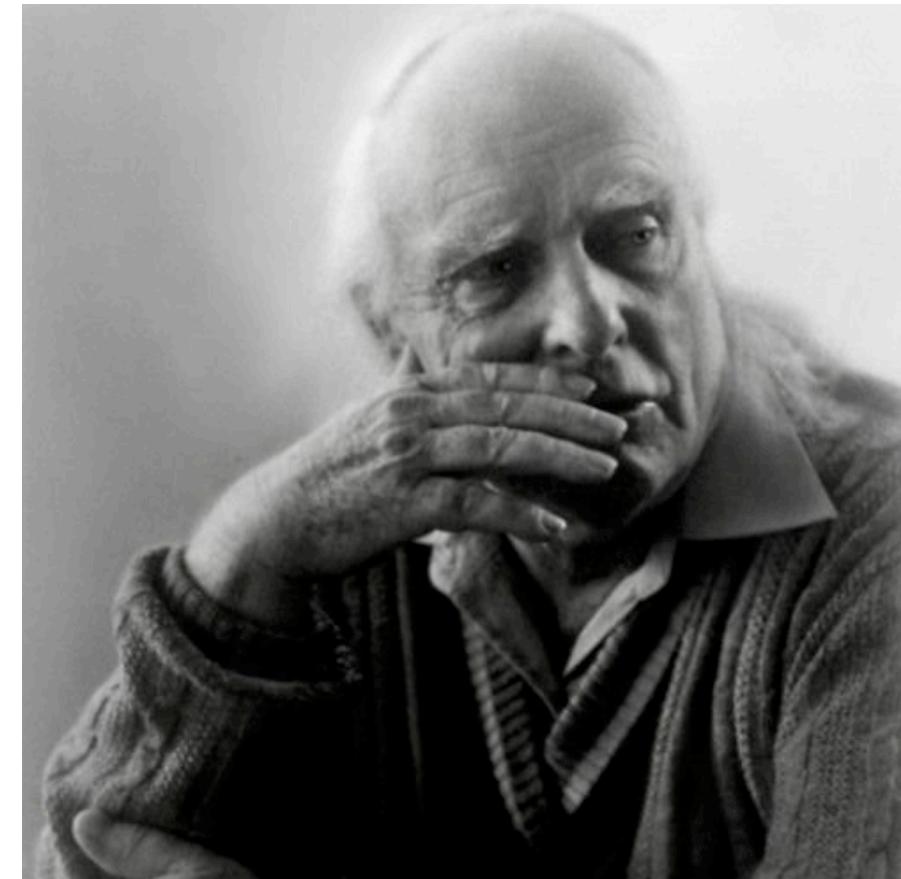
- For recitation this week, please teach and practice conversational implicatures
  - That includes: Grice's maxims
  - Cooperative Principle
  - Following, violating, and flouting maxims
  - Canceling and reinforcing implicatures
- I'm providing some sample slides you can use to teach conversational implicatures – feel free to edit them as you see fit

# Implied meaning

- This week we've been learning about Pragmatics
  - the study of how context contributes to meaning
  - the study of implied meaning (as opposed to semantics' literal meaning)
- Last class we saw one type of implied meaning: Presuppositions
  - Information that must be assumed to be in the common ground for an utterance to make sense.
- Today we'll look at another type of implied meaning: Conversational Implicatures
  - Implied meaning that arises from our understanding of how people behave in a conversation

# How do conversations work?

- Philosopher Paul Grice studied how people behave when
  - they're having a conversation.
- He noticed that participants in a conversation tend to
  - collaborate and follow certain rules.
- For example, participants in a conversation:
  - Don't tend to say things that are irrelevant.
  - Don't tend to say things they believe to be false.
  - Don't tend to say more or less than they need to.



*Paul Grice (1913-1988)*

# Cooperative Principle

- In fact, we tend to behave in similar ways whenever we're collaborating on a common task with a common goal with other people.
- Imagine Tom is baking a cake with his mom:
  - When she tells him the next step is to stir the batter, he's probably not going to start doing jumping jacks instead.
  - When she asks him to hand her two eggs, he's probably not going to hand her twenty, or just one.
- In the same way, when we have a conversation, we tend not to say irrelevant things or give more or less information than is required (among other things).

**Homework V** is due this Sunday (**Nov 2nd**)

**Homework VI** will be published this week which is due next Sunday (**Nov 9th**)

**reading materials** before Wednesday class

Phonetics in O'Grady et al.'s *Contemporary Linguistics: An Introduction*



Slides created via the R package **xaringan** (<https://github.com/yihui/xaringan>).