

# Lecture 6: The Liar Paradox

Philosophy of Logic and Language — HT 2017-18

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## Suggested Reading

Starred items (\*) are more introductory, and good places to start. Apart from last week's pieces by Tarski, the key thing to look at this week is Kripke (1975), which criticises the Tarskian approach, and develops an alternative account. If you want a guide to the Kripke, Soames (1999) is particularly helpful. Soames discusses the ineffability objection to Kripke's theory, as does McGee (1991). Priest and Berto (1998/2013) provide an overview of dialetheism; Parsons (1990) and Shapiro (2004) are critical. Parsons (1974) and Burge (1979) defend a contextualist approach. For discussion of absolutely unrestricted quantification, see the papers in Rayo and Uzquiano (2006). Yablo (1993) argues that the paradox doesn't crucially rely on self- or circular-reference.

- \*JC Beall, Michael Glanzberg, and David Ripley (2011/16) 'Liar Paradox' in E. Zalta, ed. *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*: <https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/liar-paradox/>
- Tyler Burge (1979) 'Semantical Paradox' in *Journal of Philosophy* 76(4), pp. 169-198.
- \*Alexis P. Burgess and John P. Burgess (2010) *Truth* (Princeton UP), Ch. 8.
- Saul Kripke (1975) 'An Outline of a Theory of Truth' in *Journal of Philosophy* 72(19), pp. 690-716.
- Van McGee (1991) *Truth, Vagueness, and Paradox* (Hackett), Ch. 4 & 5.
- Charles Parsons (1974) 'The Liar Paradox' in *Journal of Philosophical Logic* 3(4), pp. 381-412.
- Terence Parsons (1990) 'True Contradictions' in *Canadian Journal of Philosophy* 20(3), pp. 335-53.
- \*Graham Priest and Francesco Berto (1998/2013) 'Dialetheism' in E. Zalta, ed. *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*: <https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/dialetheism/>
- Agustín Rayo and Gabriel Uzquiano, eds. (2006) *Absolute Generality* (OUP).
- \*Mark Sainsbury (2009) *Paradoxes*, 3rd edition (CUP), Ch. 6 and 7.
- Stewart Shapiro (2004) 'Simple Truth, Contradiction and Consistency' in Graeme Priest, JC Beall, and Bradley Armour-Garb, eds. *The Law of Non-Contradiction* (OUP).
- Scott Soames (1999) *Understanding Truth* (OUP), Ch. 5 and 6.
- Stephen Yablo (1993) 'Paradox without Self-Reference' in *Analysis* 53(4), pp. 251-252.