I. Administrative
   A. Reading essay #2
   B. Readings for next week
   C. Questions?

II. Theory of Meaning
   A. The principal quarry: significance.
   B. We started down a road with reference that proved interesting, but was ultimately not going to lead us where we wanted.
   C. We now turn to meaning simpliciter, as distinct from reference. Can we make headway with it?

III. Desiderata for a Theory of Meaning
   A. What is the difference between meaningless marks and meaningful marks?
   B. Synonymy
   C. Ambiguity
   D. Entailment relations
   E. “Merely semantic”
   F. Others?

IV. The Lay of the Land
   A. Meanings as Objects
      1. Concrete
a. **Ideas**

i. On accounts of this type, meanings are in the head, specifically, as ideas of some type. (See Locke.)

ii. Alternatives appear to be beliefs, or concepts.

iii. *Arguments for/Arguments against*

b. **Intentional Contents**

i. This is similar to the first view, although this view puts the cognitive content into contact with action by making it part of the specification of intentions. (See Grice.)

ii. For Grice, meaningfulness is underwritten by the following type of intention: “I intend that you entertain belief X by recognition of this very intention.”

iii. *Arguments*: to come in a couple of weeks...

2. **Abstract**

a. **Propositions**

i. Propositions are abstract objects that underwrite various meaning facts (e.g., synonymy) and are the vehicles of truth and falsity. They are also called “claims”. (See Frege.)

ii. One can be a Platonist about these, as Frege appears to be, or one can be an instrumentalist.

iii. One can also take these to be complex constructions or the unit of analysis.

iv. *Arguments for/Arguments against*

b. **Verification Conditions**

i. Part and parcel of the Logical Positivist school, meaningfulness was understood as involving the set of experiences one could have that would verify the
truth of a given sentence. (See Carnap.)

ii. This view was intended to undermine what its proponents viewed as specious metaphysics, by rendering that meaningless.

iii. An epistemic theory, alongside those below…

iv. Arguments for/Arguments against

B. Meaning as Use – next week