I. Administrative

A. *Reading Preview*: Bach today, Grice Thursday, Zwicky & Sadock and Wasow next week

B. *Writing Preview*: RE#2 due Tuesday, Nov. 3 in my inbox (no class that day); by Saturday, Nov. 7, I need to see (a) a 250-word abstract of your long paper, and (b) an outline of the whole thing – together these are worth 20 points of the 100 for the first draft

C. *General Questions?*

II. Lexical and Structural Ambiguity

A. Ambiguity is *fundamentally* a property of “linguistic expressions” – it is *not* something that applies to people by virtue of their use in the strict sense, according to Bach

B. Two types of ambiguity
   1. *Lexical*: words are ambiguous if they have more than one meaning
   2. *Structural*: this arises when “a phrase or sentence has more than one underlying structure”, e.g., ‘Tibetan history teacher’

C. *Tests for ambiguity*
   1. Antonyms
   2. Conjunction reduction
   3. Contradiction tests

D. *Issues*
   1. When do we have *one word*? E.g., distinguish words into parts of speech … or not?
2. Different from polysemy?

3. Is “pragmatic ambiguity” an oxymoron?

4. When one uses an ambiguous word, one does not generally entertain their unintended meanings

III. What Ambiguity Is Not

A. Homonymy – bear (n)/bear (v)

B. Vagueness – tall / athletic

C. Relativity – heavy / ‘John will be late’

D. Indexicality – ‘You owe me money’

E. Nonliterality – ‘Juliet is the sun’

F. Indirection – ‘I wish you could sing longer and louder’

G. Inexplicitness – ‘Nothing came in the mail today’

IV. Philosophical Interest in Ambiguity

A. Rooting out ambiguities – product/process, act/object, type/token (?), scope ambiguities

B. But beware – don’t start seeing them where they are not!