I. Administrative

A. Reading essay #1 due October 1 (one week from Thursday)

B. Readings for next week

C. Questions?

II. Grice and Meta-semantics

A. (From “Meaning Revisited”) Meaning arises in the context of three sets of interrelated correspondences—psychological/physical, linguistic/psychological, and linguistic/physical:

1. Psychophysical: Our thoughts and the world mesh in ways that make our actions rational. We have beliefs and desires that are related in law-like ways with the world, enabling us successfully to execute intentions.

2. Psycholinguistic: Grice sees this in terms of $\Psi$-transmission, where this involves moving psychological content from one “soul” to another via a regular utterance. This is underwritten by the first type of correspondence—that is what anchors the various psychological states involved in this transaction.

3. Physicolinguistic: Language clearly relates to the world—we use it, and things happen. This is typically via the intercession of thoughts, and Grice notes this.

4. These constitute a framework for examining claims and hypotheses concerning meaning. Think of this as a triangle with connected vertices. The context, then, is a holistic one, where we can solve for one variable by parameterizing the others.

5. Grice's view is often characterized as a speaker meaning/sentence meaning approach, according to which all aspects of meaning are
accommodated in a psychologically reductionist way. This is apt, relative to certain papers, but it does not rest comfortably with the holism expressed here.

B. The Analysis:

1. A Distinction: Natural and Non-natural Meaning

   a. Grice distinguishes these uses of ‘meaning’ into natural and non-natural. Natural meaning is exhibited by (1)-(3). M_N is causal, with the effect standing for the cause by virtue of their regular, nomological connection. Non-natural meaning is exhibited by (4)-(6), and is the kind of meaning we are most interested in because linguistic meaning is a species of it. M_{NN} is intentional, with the effect being created via mediation by intentions.

   b. He offers five tests to use in distinguishing these, which can be divided into two groups with the help of our correspondences. The first is the physicolinguistic and the second psycholinguistic. The first group includes the facticity conditions (1) and (5), while the second group includes the agency conditions (2), (3), and (4).

   c. The Bottom Line: natural meaning is about causal connection, non-natural meaning about intentional connection.

   d. The Test: Could you be wrong about a meaning claim without the claim being false?

2. Analyzing Non-natural Meaning: he looks at paradigm cases, hoping to serve up an analysis that works for them.

   a. First condition: M_{NN} requires that the speaker intend to induce a belief in an audience, where the content of the belief is the meaning_{NN} of the utterance. Problem: lies and deception demonstrate that this will not do for the paradigm cases—it isn’t genuine communication.

   b. Second condition: M_{NN} requires that the speaker intend to induce a belief in an audience and have the audience recognize that she intends to do this. Problem: this intention could be otiose, as the effect could be produced
without going through the intention (e.g., John the Baptist).

c.  *Third condition:* \( M_{NN} \) requires that the recognition of the intention be causally effective in producing the intended belief.

d.  *Summary:* \( S \) means that \( P \) by \( U \) iff there is an \( A \) and \( S \) intends that \( A \) believe that \( P \) by recognition of this very intention. (Schifferized version)

3.  Grice gets out of this an analysis of particular expression and agent meaning, as well as an analysis of timeless meaning. This is the foundation of his meta-semantic account.