Optional reading response: Grice’s ‘Logic and conversation’
Chris Potts, Ling 130a/230a: Introduction to semantics and pragmatics, Winter 2021
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**Note**  Grice’s ‘Logic and conversation’ is arguably the most important paper in pragmatics. However, it can be tough reading, since it is seeking to do a lot all at once – mediate long-standing debates in philosophy, create a new approach to understanding human communication, and advance some very specific theoretical ideas within that approach. This reading response should help you home in on the things that are crucial for our class (which might be very different from the things that are crucial in other contexts in which this paper is discussed).

1. What is the cooperative principle? Quote the sentence from the paper where Grice defines the principle, with the page number to make it easier to go back and get the full context.

2. What are the maxims and how does Grice define them? List them out here with direct quotations from the article and associated page numbers.

3. The definition of conversational implicature starts at the bottom of page 49. This is a central concept in the paper, but the definition is challenging; we will discuss it in great detail. For now, just describe one of Grice’s examples of a conversational implicature in your own words, without trying to connect it to the definition.

4. Provide one of Grice’s examples of a speaker opting out of a maxim.

5. Provide one of Grice’s examples of a speaker flouting of a maxim.