

Philosophy of Logic and Language
Vagueness

Primary Readings

- (!) **Sainsbury, M. and Williamson, T., ‘Sorites’**, in B. Hale and C. Wright (eds), *Blackwell Companion to the Philosophy of Language*, Blackwell (1995).
- **Williamson, T., *Vagueness***, Routledge (1994), (Particularly useful are ch.4-5, which discuss alternatives to classical logic, and ch. 7-8 which discuss Williamson’s epistemicist approach to vagueness).
- **Fine, K., ‘Vagueness, Truth, and Logic’**, in Keefe & Smith (eds.).
- **Edgington, D., ‘Vagueness by degrees’**, in Keefe & Smith (eds.).
- **Kamp, H., ‘Two theories about adjectives’**, in Keenan, E. L., ed., *Formal Semantics of Natural Language*, CUP (1975).
- **Raffman, D., ‘Vagueness without paradox’**, *Philosophical Review* 103 (1994), pp. 41-74.
- **Graff, D., ‘Shifting sands: an interest-relative theory of vagueness’**, *Philosophical Topics* 28, (2000), pp. 45–81.
- **Stanley, J., ‘Context, interest-relativity, and the sorites’**, *Analysis* 63 (2003), pp. 269-80.

Useful collections (for further readings):

- Keefe, R. and Smith, P. (eds), *Vagueness: A reader*, MIT Press (1996).
- Graff, G., and Williamson, T. (eds.), *Vagueness*, Aldershot (2000).

Background Readings:

- Sorensen, R., ‘**Vagueness**’, in the Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy,
- Hyde, D., ‘**The Sorites Paradox**’, in the Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy,

Questions:

- (1) What is the best solution to the Sorites paradox?
- (2) In the light of vague languages, should we revise classical logic?
- (3) How, if at all, does the notion of context sensitivity help us address the problems concerning vagueness? [Note: if you want to answer this question you should read the Raffman, Graff, and Stanley papers above!].
- (4) Is vagueness a phenomena concerning language or concerning the world?