FORMAL SEMANTICS/SEMANTICS II
LIN 4850-06CC/ LIN 6856-06CF
Spring 2014

Instructor: Galia Hatav
Time: MWE 5th period (11:45-12:35)
Place: AND 0019
Office hours: MWF 8th period (3:00-3:50); or by appointment
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Tel.: 294-7452
E-mail: ghatav@ufl.edu
Course website on E-Learning in Sakai: http://lss.at.ufl.edu

Textbooks: (Available at the Reitz Union bookstore, Tel. 392-0194.)

Course Description and Objectives
This course is an introduction to doing formal semantics for linguists, based on the theory of Richard Montague and theories developed within his approach. We will work on the technical "craft", as Heim & Kratzer put it, of doing formal semantics, and in some parallel fashion, on the philosophy that underlies it.

The students will acquire the main ideas and techniques of Type-theory and Lambda-notation, and will be acquainted with more specific topics, as many as time permits.

Pre-requisites:
Students are assumed to already have had a basic introduction to first order logic, set theory, the distinction of semantics vs. pragmatics and (Generative) syntax.

Requirements:
Undergraduates
*Homework 14%
A total of SEVEN homework assignments must be submitted. Together they will constitute 14% of the final grade (2% each).
Homework is not graded but only given pass/fail check. In order to pass, each assignment must be completed and its lowest grade should be a D, i.e., at least 60% of the assignment should be good. Homework will not be accepted after due date.
*Tests
Two take-home tests 33% x 2 = 66%
The test will be given two days before it is due.
Test one will be given to you on Wednesday, Feb 26 and is due Friday, Feb 28;
Test two will be given to you on Monday, April 21 and is due Wednesday, April 23.

*Reaction Papers 20%
A total of TEN reaction papers must be submitted. Together they will constitute 20% of the final grade (2% each).
A ‘reaction paper’ is only required on some of the assignment readings and must be submitted on due time. I will not grade late papers without a documented excuse.
The point of a reaction paper is to react, i.e. evaluate, criticize, support, or merely raise questions about the assigned readings.

Reaction papers are to be at least one full page in length (but not more than two); typed (font size 12, double space) and printed out neatly. They will not be assigned a letter grade, but only a pass/fail check.

* Attendance and participation. Attendance and participation are essential. Each student will be allowed 3 absences without penalty. After that, one point will be deducted from the final grade for every non-excused absence. Showing up later or leaving earlier is considered 1/4 absences.

**Graduates**

*Homework* 10.5%

*Two take-home tests* 30% x 2 = 60%

*Reaction Papers* 15%

*Term paper* 14.5%

A term paper is a conference-style paper, to be presented in class weeks 14, 15. The paper (10+ pages) and oral presentation (10-15 minutes, plus questions) will constitute 14.5% of the final grade (of graduate students). **Topics must be approved by the 13th week**. All papers due by April 21nd.

The course grading scale is below. Further information about UF’s grading policies can be found at: [http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/regulationgrades.html](http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/regulationgrades.html)

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**Other Information:**

Honor Code: [http://www.chem.ufl.edu/~itl/honor.html](http://www.chem.ufl.edu/~itl/honor.html)

Disabilities: [http://www.chem.ufl.edu/~itl/disabilities.html](http://www.chem.ufl.edu/~itl/disabilities.html)

Counseling: [http://www.chem.ufl.edu/~itl/counseling.html](http://www.chem.ufl.edu/~itl/counseling.html)

**Weekly Schedule (subject to changes according to class progress and interest):**

**Week 1.** Jan 6, 8 and 10

- **Read** H&K Ch. 1; Optional: C&M-G Appendix on p. 529
- Discuss syllabus.
- Review: Sets and functions

**Reaction paper #1** (due F) on Elbourne Ch. 1

**Week 2.** Jan 13, 15 and 17

- Denotation and Extension vs. Intension;
- Extension of proper names, sentences, and verbs;

**Reaction paper #2** (due F): Elbourne Ch. 2

**Week 3.** Jan 22 and 24 (Note: Jan 20 is MLK Day – no classes)

**HW #1 (posted online): Due F**

- Extension and phrase structures.

**Week 4.** Jan 27, 29 and 31

**Reaction paper #3** (due F): Elbourne Ch. 3

- **Read** H&K § 2.2-2.4; Optional: C&M-G § 3.2.4 pp. 87-99; Dowty *et al* ch. 4 § I-II; and Partee *et al* § 13.2.1.
- Denotation of 1-place and 2-place predicates;
- Semantic types.
- **Class-work #1**: H&K ex. p. 23.

**Week 5.** Feb 3, 5 and 7
- **Reaction paper # 4** (due F): Elbourne Ch. 4 and H&K pp. 1-3
- **Read** H & K § 2.5; Optional: C&M-G ch. 7; Dowty *et al* ch. 4 § III; McCawley § 13.1; Gamut § 4.4; and Partee *et al* § 13.2.2.
- Semantic types (cont.);
- Lambda operator.
- **Class-work #2**: H&K ex. 2 p. 32.

**Week 6.** Feb 10, 12 and 14
- **HW #2** (posted online): Due F
- Lambda operator (cont.)

**Week 7.** Feb 17, 19 and 21
- **Read** H & K, Ch. 3.
  - Semantically vacuous words;
  - Nonverbal predicates; Predicates as restrictive modifiers.
- **Reaction paper # 5** (due F): Elbourne Ch. 5
- **HW #3** (posted online): Due F

**Week 8.** Feb 24, 26 and 28
- **Reaction paper # 6** (due F): Elbourne Ch. 6
  - Predicates as restrictive modifiers (cont.)
- **Class-work**: Ex. on p. 63.
- **Submitting Take-home Test #1** (F)

**Week 9.** March 3, 5 and 7: Spring Break – no classes

**Week 10.** March 10, 12, 14
- **Reaction Paper #7** (F): Elbourne Ch. 7
  - Some digression: PTQ (M)
  - Optional Reading: Gamut ch. 4.

**Week 11.** March 17, 19 and 21
- **Reaction Paper #8**: Elbourne Ch. 8 (Due F)
  - The definite article
- **Read**: H&K section 4.4

**Week 12.** March 24, 26 and 28
- **Read** H & K ch. 12; Gamut ch. 5; C & M-G ch. 5.
- **Reaction Paper #9** on H&K pp. 61-73 (F)
- **HW #4** (posted online): Due F

**Week 13.** March 31, April 2 and 4
- Intensional semantics
  - Possible worlds, contexts, times
  - Attitude verbs
  - The cap operator (up, ^)
- **HW # 5** (posted online): Due F

**Week 14.** April 7, 9 and 11
- **Reaction Paper #10**: Elbourne Ch. 8 & 9 (Due F)
- **Read**: H&K sections 12.1-12.2 (pp. 299-303)
  - Intensional semantics (cont.)
- **HW # 6** (posted online): Due F
- Students’ presentation

**Week 15.** April 16 and 18 (Note: April 14 is Passover Eve – class cancelled)
- **HW # 7** (posted online): Due F
- Students’ presentation

**Week 16.** April 21 and 23

- Review/Students’ presentation (M)
- **Submitting:** Take-home Test #2 (W)

**Complementary Reading**
McCawley, James D. 1993 [1981]. *Everything that Linguists have Always Wanted to Know about Logic, but were ashamed to ask*. Oxford: Basil Blackwell.