

INTRODUCTION TO SEMANTICS/ LIN 4803-3586
SEMANTICS I/ LIN 6804-26EG
Fall 2018

MWF 5th period (11:45-12:35), AND 19

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Office hours: MWF 6th period (12:50-1:40), or by appointment

Computer classroom support: 392-6683

Course website on E-Learning in Canvas: <http://elearning.ufl.edu>

Course Description

The course is an introduction to **truth Conditional Semantics**. As truth conditional semantics involves logic, the course will encompass both theoretical concepts and technical exercises in first- and second order logic. Students will learn how logical theories, such as propositional logic, predicate calculus and set theory, can be used to specify meanings and explain semantic phenomena. An emphasis will be made on the distinction between pure logic and logic in natural language.

The course will also examine the interface of semantics and pragmatics. The latter concerns the study of meanings that are determined by linguistic communication in situated contexts, and that depend on the assumptions and intentions of language users.

Prerequisite: LIN 3010, graduate standing, or permission by instructor.

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

1. Allwood, Jens, Anderson, Lars-Gunner, and Dahl, Östen (AAD). 1977. *Logic in Linguistics*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
2. Kearns, Kate. 2011. *Semantics*, Second edition, New York: Palgrave Macmillan
3. Optional: Language in Action. An online course in language (download for free)

Course Website

Course material (syllabus, lecture notes, homework assignments, extra reading, etc.) - available on Canvas:

<http://elearning.ufl.edu>

Course requirements and grading:

Undergraduates

Homework 8 x 2% = 16%

Exams 4 x 21 % = 84%

Graduates

Homework 8 x 2% = 16%

Exams 4 x 18% = 72%

Term paper 12%

Homework

- Homework will not be graded but only given a pass/fail check. In order to pass, each assignment must be **completed** and its lower grade should be a D, i.e., at least 60% of the assignment should be good. For each failing or un-submitted homework assignment, your grade will be lowered by 2%.
- Homework exercises are to be typed and printed out neatly. Staple sheets together and put your name on it.
- We will typically discuss the homework in class, so late homework cannot be accepted.

- You may discuss the problems with other members of this class section only. You must write up your solutions entirely on your own, without help, in accordance with the Honor Code:
<http://www.chem.ufl.edu/~itl/honor.html>

Exams The exams are not cumulative except to the extent that the material builds on itself and you cannot control the more complex concepts without first getting the more basic ones. There is no final exam. There will be no make-up exams without a documented medical excuse.

Attendance and participation

Attendance and participation are essential. You are unlikely to succeed in this course without coming to class and paying attention. The material on the exams will come from the texts but also from what we do in class. Lecture notes and the texts will not always coincide.

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 1/2 absences.

NOTE: if you show up late it is your responsibility to make sure that I turn the absence into late. The least distracting method is to approach me at the end of the class.

A term paper is a conference-style paper, to be presented in class weeks 14, 15.

The paper (10+ pages, double space, Font 12) and oral presentation (10-15 minutes, plus questions) will constitute 12% of the final grade (6% for the written part and 6% for the presentation). **Topics must be approved by week 13.** All papers due by December 3rd.

Cell Phone Policy: Cell phones should be switched off for class. If you need it on for a specific class (because of a family medical emergency, for example) please notify me before class and sit near the door.

Note: There will be no extra credit work to help raise your grade; please do not ask. The best strategy is to do the best work you are capable of on the assigned work (exams, homework, presentation, etc.).

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>

A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-
92 or above	89-91.9	85-88.9	80-84.9	77-79.9	74-76.9	70-73.9	67-69.9
D+	D	D-	E				
64-66.9	60-63.9	57-59.9	56.9 or below				

Other Information:

Honor Code: <http://www.chem.ufl.edu/~itl/honor.html>

Disabilities: <http://www.chem.ufl.edu/~itl/disabilities.html>

Counseling: <http://www.chem.ufl.edu/~itl/counseling.html>

Schedule (subject to changes according to class progress):

Week 1: 8/22, 24

Course overview and introduction: What is meaning? Semantics vs. pragmatics

Read: Kearns §§1.1-1.3.3; AAD ch.1.

Week 2: 8/27, 29, 31

Introduction (cont.)

HW1 (F)

Week 3: 9/5, 7 (Note: 9/3 is Labor Day – no classes)

Set theory

Read: AAD §§ 2.1-2.3

HW2 (F)

Week 4: 9/12, 14 (Note: 9/10 is Rosh Ha-Shana; class cancelled)

Set theory (cont.);

Read: AAD § 2.4

HW3 (F)

Week 5: 9/17, 21 (Note: 9/19 is Yom Kippur; class cancelled)

Inferences and entailments

Read: AAD ch.3; Kearns §1.3.4

Propositional logic

Read: Kearns §§ 2.1 – 2.2; AAD §§ 4.1-4.2

Review (M); Exam1 (F)

Week 6: 9/24, 26, 28

Propositional logic – Continue

HW4 (F)

Week 7: 10/1, 3, 5

Predicate logic

Read: Kearns §2.3; AAD §5.1

HW5 (F)

Week 8: 10/8, 10, 12

Predicate logic - Continue

Read: Kearns §3

Week 9: 10/15, 17, 19

Predicate logic- Continue

Review (W) Exam 2 (F)

Week 10: 10/22, 24, 26

Natural language quantifiers

Read: Kearns §§6.1-2

HW 6 (F)

Week 11: 10/29, 31 (Note: 11/2 is Homecoming Day; no classes)

Natural language quantifiers (cont.)

Read Kearns §§6.3-4

Week 12: 11/5, 7, 9

Natural language quantifiers (cont.)

Read Kearns §6.5-6.6

HW7 (F)

Week 13: 11/14, 16 (Note: 11/12: Veterans Day; no classes)

Natural language quantifiers (sum.);

Read Kearns §6.7; §6.9

Review (W) Exam 3 (F)

Week 14: 11/19 (Note: 11/21, 23: Thanksgiving – no classes)

Read Kearns §11.1-11.2

Week 15: 11/26, 28, 30

Events: Davidson's Theory

HW 8 (F)

Week 16: 12/3, 5

Review (M); Exam4 (F)