

INTRODUCTION TO SEMANTICS/ LIN 4803-3586
SEMANTICS I/ LIN 6804-3731
Fall 2013

MWF 7th period (1:55-2:45), AND 19

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Office hours: MWF 8th period (3:00-3:50), or by appointment

Course website on E-Learning in Sakai: <http://lss.at.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 set theory and other logical theories 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

Course Website

Course material (syllabus, lecture notes, homework assignments, extra reading, etc.) - available on Sakai: <http://lss.at.ufl.edu/>

Course requirements and grading:

Undergraduates

Homework 10%

Exams 30% x 3 = 90%

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 1%, up to 10%.

Homework exercises are to be typed and printed out neatly. Staple multiple sheets together and put your name on it. Please write in complete sentences and complete thoughts. H/W assignments are due **in class** on the date stated on the syllabus. We will typically discuss the homework in class, so late homework cannot be accepted. If you are not in class when homeworks are handed back, it is your responsibility to get your work from the instructor.

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 ½ absences.

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.).

Graduates

<i>Homework</i>	10%
<i>Exams</i>	25% x 3 = 75%
<i>Term paper</i>	15%

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 15% of the final grade (10% for the written part and 5% for the presentation). **Topics must be approved by week 13.** All papers due by December 2nd.

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-
91 or above	87-90.9	84-86.9	80-83.9	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: 8/21, 23 Course overview and introduction; What is meaning?; Semantics vs. pragmatics;

Read Kearns §§1.1-1.3.3; AAD ch.1.

Recommended: de Swart Ch. 1&2; Gamut 1991, ch.1; Putnum 1975; Katz & Fodor 1963.

Week 2: 8/26, 28, 30 Set theory

Read AAD §§ 2.1-2.3

8/30: HW1

Week 3: 9/6 (Note: 9/2 is Labor Day – no classes; 9/4 – Rosh ha-Shana Eve – class cancelled)

Set theory (cont.)

Read AAD § 2.4

9/6 HW2

Week 4: 9/9, 11, 13 Set theory (sum.); Inferences and entailments

Read AAD ch.3; Kearns §1.3.4

9/13 HW3

Week 5: 9/16, 18, 20 Propositional logic

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

9/18 Review; 9/20 Exam1

Week 6: 9/23, 25, 27 Propositional logic (sum.)

9/27 HW4

- Week 7:** 9/30, 10/2, 10/4 Predicate logic
 Read Kearns §2.3; AAD §5.1
- Week 8:** 10/7, 9, 11 Predicate logic (cont.)
 Read Kearns §3
 10/11 HW5
- Week 9:** 10/14, 16, 18; Predicate logic (sum.)
 10/18 HW6
- Week 10:** 10/21, 23, 25; Natural language quantifiers
 10/23: Review 10/25: Exam 2
 Read Kearns §§6.1-2
- Week 11:** 10/28, 30, 11/1; Natural language quantifiers (cont.)
 11/1 HW 7
 Read Kearns §§6.3-4
- Week 12:** 11/4, 6 **Note: 11/8: Homecoming - no classes;** Natural language quantifiers (cont.)
 Read Kearns §6.5-6.6
 11/6 HW8
- Week 13:** 11/13, 15 ;**Note: 11/11: Veterans Day – No classes;** Natural language quantifiers (sum.);
 Read Kearns §6.7; §6.9
 11/15 HW9
- Week 14:** 11/18, 20, 22 Aspectual classes of events
 Read Kearns §8.1-8.3
- Week 15:** 11/25, **Note: 11/27, 29: Thanksgiving – no classes;** Aspectual classes of events (cont.)
 11/25 HW10
- Week 16:** 12/3, 5
 12/2: Review ; 12/5: Exam3

Complementary Reading

- Chierchia, G. and McConnel-Ginet. 2000. *Meaning and Grammar; An Introduction to Semantics*. Cambridge, Mass. and London, England: MIT Press.
- Frege, G. 1892. On sense and meaning. In: *Translation from the philosophical writing of Gottlob Frege*, 56-78, Oxford 1952. Also in: Peigel & Sellers below.
- Gamut, L.T.F. 1991. *Logic, language, and meaning*. Chicago and London: The University of Chicago Press.
- Jackendoff, R. 1983. *Semantics and Cognition*. Cambridge, Mass. & Oxford, England: MIT Press.
- Katz, J. & Fodor, J. 1963. The structure of semantic theory. *Language* 39: 170-210.
- Katz, J. & Postal, P. 1964. *An integral theory of linguistic description*. Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press.
- McCawley, J. D. 1993 [1981]. *Everything that linguists have always wanted to know about logic but were ashamed to ask*. 2nd ed., Chicago: Chicago University Press.
- Montague, R. 1973. The proper treatment of quantification in ordinary English. (Generally referred to as PTQ), In: Jintikka, J. et al (eds.), *Approaches to natural language: Proceedings of the 1970 Stanford workshop on grammar and semantics*, 221-42, Dordrecht: Reidel. Reprinted in Montague 1974m 247-70.
- Montague, R. 1974. *Formal philosophy: selected papers of Richard Montague*. Ed.: R. Thomason. New Haven, Conn. & London: Yale University Press.
- Peigel, H. & Sellars, W. (eds.). 1949. *Reading in philosophical analysis*. N.Y.
- Putnam, H. 1975. The meaning of “meaning”. In: Gunderson, K. (ed.). *Language, Mind and Knowledge; Minnesota studies in philosophy of science*. 7: 131-193. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.
- De Swart, H. 1998. *Introduction to natural Language Semantics*. CSLI Publications: Stanford, California.
- Quine, W. V. 1960. *Word and object*. Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press.
- Quine, W. V. 1966. Quantification and propositional attitudes. *The journal of philosophy* 53: 177-187.