

INTRODUCTION TO SEMANTICS/ LIN 4803-3586
SEMANTICS I/ LIN 6804-26EG
Fall 2020

MWF 5th period (11:45-12:35), online - in a synchronous format

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

Best way to contact me is via e-mail.

Computer classroom support: 392-6683

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

SINCE THE CLASS IS DELIVERED ONLINE IN A SYNCHRONOUS FORMAT, PLEASE NOTE:

- While this course is delivered online, there will be several synchronous activities, including lectures, discussion, and your feedback. These activities will take place during our assigned class time as indicated above. You are expected to be available during those times.
- **Additionally, please keep in mind that all times listed on this syllabus and announced in class are according to Eastern Standard Time (i.e., Gainesville time). If you are not located in the Eastern Standard Time zone, you should adjust times for all synchronous activities and due dates accordingly.**
- Most of our one-on-one communication will occur via email.
There are two important course policies regarding email: 1) I expect that you are reading your email at least once per day, and 2) All emails that you send must follow basic rules for professional correspondence. If you are unsure of what constitutes professionalism, feel free to ask...or simply err on the side of caution
- Computer Access: The University requires access to and on-going use of a computer. This should not be a tablet device or smartphone, but an actual desktop or laptop computer. To succeed in this course, you will also need a stable internet connection and appropriate space to take online exams using the Honor Lock proctoring service. Minimum equipment specifications are available at: <https://it.ufl.edu/policies/student-computing-requirements/>.

Course Description and Goals

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. At the end of the course, students are expected to know how to read and form logical formulas in the theories studied, on the one hand, and appreciate how logical theories can be used to specify meanings and explain semantic phenomena in natural language, on the other hand.

Some attention will also be given to the interface of semantics and pragmatics. The latter concerns the study of meanings that are determined by linguistic communication in situated contexts, and that depends on the assumptions and intentions of language users. At the end of the course, students will, at least, be able to understand what distinguishes semantic and pragmatic phenomena.

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 requirements and grading:

Undergraduates

Homework assignments 7 x 2% = 14%
Exams 4 x 21.5% = 86%

Graduates

Homework assignments 7 x 2% = 14%
Exams 4 x 19% = 76%
Term paper 10%

- *Homework*

- Homework will not be graded but only given a pass/fail check. In order to pass, each assignment must be **completed** and its lowest grade should be a D, i.e., at least 63% of the assignment should be good. For each failing or un-submitted homework assignment, your grade will be lowered by 2%.
- For each homework exercise, I will create an "assignment" on Canvas, where it should be submitted.
- 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/~jtl/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.
- The exams will be given online using the service of Honor Lock. I will give you an extra 30 minutes (15 before and 15 after the class) to complete the test.
- NOTE: 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 tuning in and paying attention. Please make sure your cellphone is off and you are not distracted by any other way during class time.
- 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.
- To take attendance, I will end the class a few minutes earlier so you can write a comment. Please try to include some feedback, which I promise to take seriously. I would be grateful if you let me know whether I went too fast/slow, if you had an idea of how I could make things clearer and more enjoyable, etc.
- Each student will be allowed 3 absences without penalty. After that, one point will be deduced from the final grade for every non-excused absence. Tuning in later or tuning out earlier is considered 1/2 absences.

Absences are considered excused only after you have provided documentation of a conflict that is explicitly covered in the UF Attendance Policy (<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/>). If you are unable to provide documentation, you may be able to have your absence excused by the Dean of Students Office in extenuating circumstances.

- *A term paper* (relevant for graduate students only)

A term paper is a conference-style paper, to be presented in class weeks 13, 14.

The paper (10+ pages, double space, Font 12) and oral presentation (10-15 minutes, plus questions) will constitute 10% of the final grade (5% for the written part and 5% for the presentation).

Topics must be approved by week 12. All papers are due by December 7th.

- **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.).

Course Evaluations

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a

professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

Course grading scale:

A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-
93-100	90-92.9	87-89.9	83-86.9	80-82.9	77-79.9	73-76.9	70-72.9
D+	D	D-	E				
67-69.9	63-66.9	60-62.9	Below 60				

-Further information about UF's grading policies can be found at:
<http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/regulationgrades.html>

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: 8/31, 9/2, 4

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

Read: Kearns §§1.1-1.3.3; AAD ch.1.

Week 2: 9/9, 11 (Note: 9/7 is Labor Day – no classes)

Introduction (cont.): Lexical semantics, meta- vs. object language, etc.

HW1 (F)

Week 3: 9/14, 16 (Note: 9/18 is Rosh Ha-Shana - class cancelled)

Set theory

Read: AAD §§ 2.1-2.3

Week 4: 9/21, 23, 25

Set theory (cont.);

Read: AAD § 2.4

HW2 (F)

Week 5: 9/30 (Note: 9/28 is Yom Kippur and 10/2 is homecoming - classes cancelled)

Inferences and entailments

Read: AAD ch.3; Kearns §1.3.4

Week 6: 10/5, 7, 9

Propositional logic

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

Review (M); Exam1 (F)

Week 7: 10/12, 14, 16

Propositional logic (cont.)

HW3 (F)

Week 8: 10/19, 21, 23

Predicate logic

Read: Kearns §2.3; AAD §5.1

HW4 (F)

Week 9: 10/26, 28, 30

Predicate logic (cont.): The Logical Quantifiers

Read: Kearns §3; AAD §5.2

Review (W) Exam 2 (F)

Week 10: 11/2, 4, 6

Predicate logic (cont.): Formal properties of relations

Read: AAD §5.8, in particular: §§5.8.1-4

HW 5 (F)

Week 11: 11/9, 13 (Note: 11/11: Veterans Day - no classes)

Natural language quantifiers

Read: Kearns §§6.1-2

HW6 (F)

Week 12: 11/16, 18, 20

Natural language quantifiers (cont.)

Read Kearns §§6.3-4

Review (M) Exam 3 (W)

Week 13: 11/23 (NOTE: 11/25, 27: Thanksgiving – no classes)

Natural language quantifiers (cont.)

Read Kearns §6.5-6.6

- A graduate student presentation

Week 14: 11/30, 12/2, 4

Natural language quantifiers (sum.);

Read Kearns §6.7; §6.9

-A graduate student presentation

HW7 (F)

Week 15: 12/7, 9

- **Review (M)**

- **Exam 4 (W)**

- **Term Paper is due (M)**