

Meaning and Use/Intro to Formal Pragmatics
LIN 4820-1A09 & LIN6826-073D
Spring 2018

Instructor: Galia Hatav
Time: MWF 5th period (11:45-12:35)
Place: AND 19
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Office hours: MWF 6th period (12:50-1:40), or by appointment
Course website on E-Learning in Canvas: <http://elearning.ufl.edu>

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course is an introduction to pragmatics, or the study of non-truth-conditional aspects of utterance meanings that are determined by *situated uses* of language and linguistic communication as a social activity. In this connection, we will explore the role of discourse and extra-linguistic context in the production and interpretation of utterances. An important part of the course is to provide students with a solid understanding of the development of theories of language use in linguistics and philosophy of language. Particular attention will be paid to the relationship between pragmatics and semantics (the study of the truth-conditional meaning of sentences). The course also touches on some issues in the relations between pragmatics and syntax. Topics to be covered include sense and reference, presupposition, implicature, and speech acts.

PREREQUISITES: LIN 3010, or graduate standing, or permission of instructor.

TEXTS (REQUIRED)

- Birner, Betty J. 2013. *Introduction to Pragmatics*, Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell. (Available at the Reitz Union bookstore, Tel. 392-0194 and at Gator Textbooks, 3501 SW 2nd Ave. Tel. 374-4500)
- Articles posted on E-Learning by the instructor and available at the library – see the list of readings below.

REQUIREMENTS

- **Reaction papers:** 13 x 2% = 26%

A 'reaction paper' on each reading assignment is due in class on Wednesday of its respective week; **I will not grade late papers without a documented excuse.** Please let me know ahead of time if there are extenuating circumstances that will force you to return in late work.

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.

- **Homework:** 6 x 2% = 12

The Homework assignments are related to the reading chapters.

At your choice, undergraduate students are to write a reply on ONE of the questions suggested by Birner at the end of each respective chapter and the grads should answer TWO.

The replies are to be at least one full page in length (but not more than two) for each question (i.e., grads are supposed to submit at least two and not more than four pages); typed (font size 12; double space) and printed out neatly. They will not be assigned a letter grade, but only a pass/fail check.

- **Exams:** 2 x 21% = 42%

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.**

• **Term Paper:** 20%

A term paper is an essay-style paper, to be presented in class on Monday, Wednesday or Friday of weeks 11-16. Please sign up for presentation during the week after the first test. The paper is to be 10-15 pages in length; typed (font size 12; double space) and printed out neatly. The oral presentation is to be planned for 10-15 minutes talk + up to five minutes questions or comments.

All papers are due by 11:45 AM on Monday, April 23.

• **Class participation:**

Since the format of this class is lecture, class work and discussion, your attendance and active participation in class are essential for success in this course. For this reason, absences put you at a severe disadvantage. 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 absence.

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, h/w assignments, reaction papers and term paper). **Missed course work would lower your grade, according to what was missed.**

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: Jan 8 and 12 Introduction

Week 2: Jan 17 and 19: Implicature I

Note: Jan 15 is MLK Day - no classes

RP1 (due Jan 17) on: Birner, 1-14, 22-35

HW1 (due Jan 17):

Undergrads: Choose one exercise/question from the list given in Birner pp. 36-39

Grads: Choose two exercises/questions from the list given in Birner pp. 36-39

- **Recommended** (but optional) reading: section 1.2.1.3 (pp. 14-22)

This section is a good summary of issues discussed in the semantics class. For students who took semantics it would be a good review and for those who did not it would supply a good glimpse to those issues.

Week 3: Jan 22, 24 and 26: Implicature II

RP2 (due Jan 24) on: Birner chapter 2

HW2 (due Jan 24):

Undergrads: Choose one exercise/question from the list given in Birner pp 75-76

Grads: Choose two exercises/questions from the list given in Birner pp 75-76.

Week 4: Jan 29 and 31, Feb, 2: Implicature III

RP3 (due Jan 31): Grice 1975

No HW

Week 5: Feb 5, 7, 9: Reference I

RP4 is due Feb 7 on Birner section 4.1

No HW

Week 6: Feb 12, 14, 16: Reference II: Deixis and Anaphora

RP5 is due Feb 14 on Birner sections 4.2-4.6

HW3 (due Feb 14):

Undergrads: Choose one exercise/question from the list given in Birner pp 143-145

Grads: Choose two exercises/questions from the list given in Birner pp 143-145

Week 7: Feb 19, 21, 23: Reference III (M); Review (W)

RP6 (due Feb 21): Filmore 1971a

Test #1 (F)

Week 8: Feb 26, 28, March 2: Presupposition I

RP7 (due Feb 28) on: Birner chapter 5

HW4 (due March 2):

Undergrads: Choose one exercise/question from the list given in Birner pp 173-174

Grads: Choose two exercises/questions from the list given in Birner pp 173-174

Week 9: March 5, 7, 9: Spring Break – No classes

Week 10: March 12, 14, 16: Presupposition II

RP8 (due March 14): Keenan 1971

Week 11: March 19, 21, 23: Presupposition III; Speech Acts I; Student Presentation

RP9 is due (March 21) on: Birner chapter 6, sections 6.1-6.7

Week 12: March 26, 28: Speech Acts II; Student Presentation

Note: March 30 is Passover Eve – class cancelled

RP10 (due (March 28) on: Searle 1965

Week 13: April 2, 4, 6: Speech Acts III; Student Presentation

RP11 (due April 4): Searle 1975.

HW5 (due April 4):

Undergrads: Choose one exercise/question from the list given in Birner pp 204-206

Grads: Choose two exercises/questions from the list given in Birner pp 204-206

Week 14: April 9, 11, 13: Information Structure; Student Presentation

RP12 (due April 11) on: Birner Chapter 7

HW6 (due April 11):

Undergrads: Choose one exercise/question from the list given in Birner pp 236-240

Grads: Choose two exercises/questions from the list given in Birner pp 236-240

Week 15: April 16, 18, 20: Conclusion; Student Presentation

RP13 (due April 18): Birner Chapter 10

Week 16: April 23 and 25: Review/Student Presentation (M)

Term papers are due (M). Test #2 (W)

Disclaimer: The above course information is tentative. The instructor reserves the right to make corrections, additions and/or deletions as the semester progresses. Syllabus corrections will be announced as they occur.

References and complementary reading

- Fillmore, C. J. 1971a. "Towards a theory of deixis." In *University of Hawaii working papers in linguistics*, vol. 3 No. 4, 219-242.
- Fillmore, C. J. 1971b. "Verbs of judging: an exercise in semantic description." In Fillmore, C. and D.T. Langendon, eds. *Studies in Linguistic Semantics*. NY: Holt, Rinehart & Winston.
- Fillmore, C.J. 1971c. *Lectures on Deixis*. Published by CSLI Lecture Notes, Nr. 65. 1997. Stanford: CSLI Publications.
- Frege, G. 1952. "On sense and reference." In P. T. Geach & M. Black (eds.), *Translations from the philosophical writings of Gottlob Frege*. Oxford: Basil Blackwell. Pp 56-78.
- Grice, H.P. 1975. "Logic and conversation." In Cole, P. and J.L. Morgan, eds. *Syntax and Semantics Vol. 3. Speech Acts*. NY: AP. Pp. 41-58. Also in Davis, S., ed. *Pragmatics: A reader*. 1991. NY: Oxford University Press. Pp. 305-15.
- Heim, Irene. 1983. *The semantics of definite and indefinite noun phrase*. PhD. Dissertation. U. of Mass, Amherst. [Distributed by GLSA.]
- Horn, Laurence R. 1989. *A natural history of negation*. Chicago: U. of Chicago Press. Reissued 2001 by CSLI.
- Keenan, E. 1971. "Two kinds of presupposition in natural language." In C. Fillmore & D. T. Langendoen (eds.), *Studies in linguistics semantics*, 45-52. New York: Holt, Rinehart & Winston.
- Kiparsky, P. and Kiparsky, C. 1971. *Fact*. In D. Steinberg & L. Jacobovits (eds.), *Semantics, an interdisciplinary reader*, 345-369, Cambridge, England: Cambridge University Press.
- Potts, Christopher. 2005. *The Logic of Conversational Implicature*. Oxford: OUP
- Reinhart, T. 1980. "Conditions for text coherence." *Poetics Today* 1:4, 161-180.
- Searle, J.R. 1965. "What is a speech act?" In Searle, J.R., ed. *The Philosophy of Language*. London: Oxford University Press. Pp. 23-38. Also in Davis, S., ed. *Pragmatics: A reader*. 1991. NY: Oxford University Press. Pp. 254-264.
- Searle, J. 1975. "Indirect speech acts." In Cole, P. and Morgan, J.L., eds. *Syntax and Semantics. Vol. 3. Speech Acts*. NY: AP. Also in Davis, S., ed. *Pragmatics: A reader*. 1991. NY: Oxford University Press. Pp. 265-77.
- Searle, J.R. 1983. *Intentionality: An Essay in the Philosophy of Mind*. Cambridge: CUP.
- Searle, J.R. 1995. *The Construction of Social Reality*. Simon and Schuster, Inc.
- Searle, J.R. 1998. *Mind, Language and Society*. Basic Books.
- Sperber, D. and D. Wilson. 1996. "Précis of Relevance: Communication and Cognition." In Geirsson, H. and Losonsky, M. (eds.), 460-86. Previous version appeared in 1987, *Behavioral and Brain Sciences* 10, 697-754.
- Strawson, P. F. "On referring." *Mind* 59, 320-344.