

Meaning and Use/Intro to Formal Pragmatics
LIN 4820-1A09 & LIN6826-073D
Spring 2015

Instructor: Galia Hataav
Time: MWF 5th period (11:45-12:35)
Place: 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: 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)
- Course reading packet (Available in Gator Textbooks, 3501 SW 2nd Ave., Tel 374-4500)
The articles included are listed below.

REQUIREMENTS

Undergrads:

• **Reaction papers:** (22%)

A total of ELEVEN reaction papers must be submitted. Together they will constitute 22% of the final grade (2% each).

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.

• **Observations:** (4%)

Two short (1/2-1 page each, typed) descriptions of observations from real life language use, applying the linguistic tools learned in class.

Observations may be turned in at any time, although they must all be turned in by 4/20. I recommend turning one in as we finish each topic. I would like you to tell the class about your observations, and I'll ask a volunteer at the beginning of most class meetings.

• **Exams:** Two exams 20% x 2 = 40%

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:** 34%

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 (10+ pages) and oral presentation (10-15 minutes + questions) will constitute 34% of your grade. All papers are due by 1:55 PM on Monday, April 20, but you are encouraged to submit your paper not later than a week after your presentation.

• **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 1/4 absences.

Graduate:

- **Reaction papers (26%)**
A total of THIRTEEN reaction papers must be submitted. Together they will constitute 26% of the final grade (2% each).
Eleven of the papers are the same ones assigned to undergrads (and due the same time); the other two are of your choice (submitted at the indicated dates: Jan 28 and April 8).

- **Observations: (4%)**

- **Exams: Two exams 20% x 2 = 40%**

- **Term Paper: 30%**

- **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 1/4 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, 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 7 and 9 Introduction

Week 2: Jan 12, 14 and 16: Implicature I

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

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

This section is a good summary of issues we 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 21 and 23: Implicature II

Note: Jan 19 is MLK Day - no classes

RP2 on Birner chapter 2 and Grice 1975: due Jan 21

Make sure you incorporate insights from both readings.

Week 4: Jan 26, 28 and 30: Implicature III

No RP is due for undergraduate students.

Extra RP1 is due for graduate students (Jan 28)

Week 5: Feb 2, 4, and 6: Reference I

RP3 is due Feb 4 on: Birner section 4.1

Week 6: Feb 9, 11 and 13: Reference II: Deixis and Anaphora

RP4 is due Feb 11 on: Birner sections 4.2-4.5 and Filmore 1971a.

Make sure you incorporate insights from both readings.

Week 7: Feb 16, 18 and 20: Reference III (M); Review (W)

Test #1 (F)

Week 8: Feb 23, 25 and 27: Presupposition I

RP5 is due (Feb 25) on: Birner chapter 5

Week 9: March 2, 4 and 6: Spring Break – No classes

Week 10: March 9, 11 and 13: Presupposition II

RP6 is due (March 11) on: Kiparsky & Kiparsky 1971

Week 11: March 16, 18 and 20: Presupposition III; Student Presentation

RP7 is due (March 18) on: Keenan 1971

Week 12: March 23, 25 and 27: Speech Acts I; Student Presentation

RP8 is due (March 25) on: Birner chapter 6 and Searle 1965

Make sure you incorporate insights from both readings.

Week 13: March 30 and April 1: Speech Acts II; Student Presentation

Note: April 3 is Passover eve – class is cancelled

RP9 is due (April 1) on: Searle 1975

Week 14: April 6, 8 and 10: Implicature III; Student Presentation

RP10 is due (April 8) on: Birner Chapter 7

Extra RP2 is due for grads (April 8)

Week 15: April 13, 15 and 17

Information Structure; Student Presentation
RP11 is due (April 15) on: Reinhart (1980)

Week 16, April 20 and 22: 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 correction 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. Langendoen, 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. Jakobovits (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.