

Meaning and Use/Intro to Formal Pragmatics
LIN 4820-1A09 & LIN6826-073D
Spring 2020

Instructor: Galia Hatav
Time: MWF 7th period (1:55-2:45)
Place: Mat 0115
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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.

- **RECOMMENDED:**

- Huang, Yan. 2014. *Pragmatics*. Second Edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press. (Available at Smathers Library.)

REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

- **Reaction papers:** 12 x 2% = 24%

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:** 5 x 2% = 10%

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 graduates 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 23% = 46%

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 1:55 PM on Monday, April 20.

- **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 three 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.

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, 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 6, 8 and 10 Introduction

- Read: Birner, 1-14, 22-35

- **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.

- **Recommended** Extra Reading: Huang, Ch. 1.

Week 2: Jan 13, 15 and 17: Implicature I

- **RP1** (due W) on: Birner, 1-14, 22-35

- **HW1** (due W):

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

Week 3: Jan 22 and 24 (Note: Jan 20 is MLK Day - no classes): **Implicature II**

- **RP2** (due W) on: Birner chapter 2

Recommended Extra Reading: Huang, Ch. 2

- **HW2** (due W):

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

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

Week 4: Jan 27, 29 and 31: Implicature III

- **RP3** (due W): Grice 1975

- **No HW**

Week 5: Feb 3, 5, 7: Reference I

- **RP4** (due W): Birner section 4.1

- **Recommended** Extra Reading: Huang, Ch. 6

- **No HW**

Week 6: Feb 10, 12, 14: Reference II; Deixis and Anaphora

RP5 (due W): Birner sections 4.2-4.6

HW3 (due W):

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 17, 19, 21: Reference III (M); Review (W): The definite article

RP6 (due W): Filmore 1971a

Test #1 (F)

Week 8: Feb 24, 26, 28: Presupposition I

- **No assignment**

- **Recommended** Extra Reading: Huang, Ch. 3

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

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

RP7 (due W): Birner chapter 5

HW4 (due W)

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 11: March 16, 18, 20: Presupposition III; Speech Acts I; Student Presentation

RP8 (due W): Keenan 1971

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

RP9 (due W): Birner chapter 6, sections 6.1-6.7

Recommended Extra Reading: Huang, Ch.4

Week 13: March 30, April 1, 3: Speech Acts III; Student Presentation

RP10 (due W): Searle 1965

Week 14: April 6, 10 (Note: April 8 is Passover Eve – class cancelled)

RP11 (W): Searle 1975.

HW5 (W):

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 15: April 13, 15, 17: Conclusion; Student Presentation

RP12 (due W): Birner Chapter 10

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 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. 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.