

FORMAL SEMANTICS/SEMANTICS II
LIN 4850-06CC/ LIN 6856-06CF
Spring 2015

Instructor: Galia Hatav
Time: MWE 7th period (1:55-2:45)
Place: MAT 2
Office hours: MWF 8th period (3:00-3:50); or by appointment
Office: Tur 4129
Tel.: 294-7452
E-mail: ghatav@ufl.edu
Course website on E-Learning in Sakai: <http://lss.at.ufl.edu>

Textbooks: (Available at the Reitz Union bookstore, Tel. 392-0194.)

1. Heim, Irene & Angelika Kratzer. 1998. *Semantics in Generative Grammar*. Malden, Mass. & Oxford, UK: Blackwell Publishers. (H&K)
2. Elbourne, Paul. 2011. *Meaning*. Oxford & New York: Oxford University Press.

Course Description and Objectives

This course is an introduction to doing formal semantics for linguists, based on the theory of Richard Montague and theories developed within his approach. We will work on the technical "craft", as Heim & Kratzer put it, of doing formal semantics, and in some parallel fashion, on the philosophy that underlies it.

The students will acquire the main ideas and techniques of Type-theory and Lambda-notation, and will be acquainted with more specific topics, as many as time permits.

Pre-requirements:

Students are assumed to already have had a basic introduction to first order logic, set theory, the distinction of semantics vs. pragmatics and (Generative) syntax.

Requirements:

Undergraduates

**Homework* 14%

A total of SEVEN homework assignments must be submitted. Together they will constitute 14% of the final grade (2% each).

Homework is not graded but only given pass/fail check. In order to pass, each assignment must be completed and its lowest grade should be a D, i.e., at least 60% of the assignment should be good. **Homework will not be accepted after due date.**

** Tests*

Two take-home tests 33% x 2 = 66%

The test will be given two days before it is due.

Test one will be given to you on Wednesday, Feb 25 and is due Friday, Feb 27;

Test two will be given to you on Monday, April 20 and is due Wednesday, April 22.

**Reaction Papers* 20%

A total of TEN reaction papers must be submitted. Together they will constitute 20% of the final grade (2% each).

A 'reaction paper' is only required on some of the assignment readings and must be submitted on due time.

I will not grade late papers without a documented excuse.

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.

** Attendance and participation.* Attendance and participation are essential. 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.

Graduates

*Homework	10.5%
*Two take-home tests	30% x 2 = 60%
*Reaction Papers	15%
*Term paper	14.5%

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 14.5% of the final grade (of graduate students). **Topics must be approved by the 13th week.** All papers due by April 20.

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: 91-100	A-: 87-90.9	B+: 84-86.9	B: 80-83.9	B-: 77-79.9
C+: 74-76.9	C: 70-73.9	C-: 67-69.9	D+: 64-66.9	D: 60-63.9
D-: 57-59.9	E: 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>

Weekly Schedule (subject to changes according to class progress and interest):

Week 1. Jan 7 and 9

- Read** H&K Ch. 1; Optional: C&M-G Appendix on p. 529
- Discuss syllabus.
- Review: Sets and functions

Week 2. Jan 12, 14 and 16

- Denotation and Extension vs. Intension;
- Extension of proper names, sentences, and verbs;
Reaction paper #1 (due W, Jan 14) on Elbourne Ch. 1

Week 3. Jan 21 and 23 (Note: Jan 19 is MLK Day – no classes)

- Reaction paper # 2** (due W, Jan 21): Elbourne Ch. 2
HW #1 (posted online): Due F, Jan 23
- Extension and phrase structures.

Week 4. Jan 26, 28 and 30

- Reaction paper # 3** (due W): Elbourne Ch. 3
Read H&K § 2.2-2.4; Optional: C&M-G § 3.2.4 pp. 87-99; Dowty *et al*

ch. 4 § I-II; and Partee *et al* § 13.2.1.

- Denotation of 1-place and 2-place predicates;
- Semantic types.

Week 5. Feb 2, 4 and 6

Reaction paper # 4 (due W, Feb 4): Elbourne Ch. 4 and H&K pp. 1-3

Read H & K § 2.5; Optional: C&M-G ch. 7; Dowty *et al* ch. 4 § III; McCawley § 13.1; Gamut § 4.4; and Partee *et al* § 13.2.2.

- Semantic types (cont.);
- Lambda operator.

Week 6. Feb 9, 11 and 13

HW #2 (posted online): Due F, Feb 13

- Lambda operator (cont.)

Week 7. Feb 16, 18 and 20

Read H & K, Ch. 3.

- Semantically vacuous words;
- Nonverbal predicates; Predicates as restrictive modifiers.

Reaction paper # 5 (due W, Feb 18): Elbourne Ch. 5

HW #3 (posted online): Due F, Feb 20

Week 8. Feb 23, 25 and 27

Reaction paper # 6 (due W, Feb 25): Elbourne Ch. 6

Predicates as restrictive modifiers (cont.)

Submitting Take-home Test #1 (F)

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

Week 10. March 9, 11, 13

Reaction Paper #7 (Due W): Elbourne Ch. 7

- Some digression: PTQ (M)
- Optional Reading: Gamut ch. 4.

Week 11. March 16, 18 and 20

Reaction Paper #8: Elbourne Ch. 8 (Due W)

The definite article

Read: H&K section 4.4

Week 12. March 23, 25 and 27

Read H & K ch. 12; Gamut ch. 5, C & M-G ch. 5.

Reaction Paper #9 on H&K pp. 61-73 (W)

HW #4 (posted online): Due F

Week 13. March 30 and April 1 (Note: April 3 is Passover Eve – class cancelled)

- Intensional semantics
 - Possible worlds, contexts, times
 - Attitude verbs
 - The cap operator (up, ^)

HW # 5 (posted online): Due F

Week 14. April 6, 8 and 9

Reaction Paper #10: Elbourne Ch. 8 & 9 (Due W)

Read: H&K sections 12.1-12.2 (pp. 299-303)

- Intensional semantics (cont.)

HW # 6 (posted online): Due F

- Students' presentation

Week 15. April 13, 15 and 17

HW # 7 (posted online): Due F

- Students' presentation
- Week 16.** April 20 and 22
- Review/Students' presentation (M)
 - **Submitting: Take-home Test #2 (W)**

Complementary Reading

- Allwood, Jens, L-G Andersson, & Ö. Dahl. 1971. *Logic in Linguistics*. Cambridge: CUP.
- Chierchia, Gennaro & Sally McConnell-Ginet. 2000, second edition. *An Introduction to Semantics*. Cambridge, Mass. & London, England: The MIT Press. (C&M-G)
- Dowty, David R., Robert E. Wall, & Stanley Peters. 1981. *Introduction to Montague Semantics*. Dordrecht, Boston, Lancaster & Tokyo: D. Reidel Publishing Company.
- Gamut, L. T. F. 1991. *Logic, Language, and Meaning; Vol. II: Intensional Logic and Logical Grammar*. Chicago & London: The University of Chicago Press.
- McCawley, James D. 1993 [1981]. *Everything that Linguists have Always Wanted to Know about Logic, but were ashamed to ask*. Oxford: Basil Blackwell.
- Montague, Richard. 1970. "Universal Grammar". *Theoria* 36. Reprinted in Montague 1974.
- . 1973. "The proper treatment of quantification in ordinary English." Generally referred to as PTQ. In J. Hintikka, J. Moravcsik, and P. Suppes, eds., *Approaches to Natural Language*. Dordrecht: Reidel. Reprinted in Montague 1974.
- . 1974. *Formal Philosophy: Selected Papers of Richard Montague, Edited and with an Introduction by Richmond H. Thomason*. New Haven: Yale University Press.
- Partee, Barbara Hall. 1979. "Semantics - mathematics or psychology?", in *Semantics from Different Points of View*, R. Bäurle et al. (eds.), Berlin, Springer, 1-14.
- Partee, Barbara H., Alice ter Meulen & Robert E. Wall. 1993. *Mathematical Methods in Linguistics*. Dordrecht, Boston & London: Kluwer Academic Publishers.