

Word Meaning
LIN 4930/LIN6932
Spring 2021

Instructor: Galia Hatav
Time: MWF 7th period (1:55-2:45)
Place: Matherly 114/online - in a synchronous format
Office: 4129 Turlington Hall
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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>

SINCE THIS IS A HYPFLEX CLASS, I.E., DELIVERED BOTH ONLINE IN A SYNCHRONOUS FORMAT AND IN F2F, PLEASE NOTE:

- While this course is delivered online (in addition to F2F), there will be several synchronous activities, including lectures, discussions, students' presentations, 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:

This course deals with a branch of semantics called Lexical Semantics, whose concern is the study of word meaning.

Our emphasis will be descriptive rather than theoretical, though we will touch on some leading theories that deal with word meaning. We will examine the internal structure of words, dealing with phenomena such as polysemy and metonymy, on the one hand, and with lexical relations such as synonymy, hyponymy and antonymy, on the other hand.

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

TEXT REQUIRED:

Murphy, M. Lynne. 2010. *Lexical Meaning*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press.

(Available at the Reitz Union bookstore, Tel. 392-0194 and at Gator Textbooks, 3501 SW 2nd Ave. Tel. 374-4500)

TEXT RECOMMENDED:

Geeraerts, Dirk. *Lexical Semantics*.

<https://doi.org/10.1093/acrefore/9780199384655.013.29>

REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

- **Homework:** 8 x 3.5% = 28%
- **Exams:** 3 x 24% = 72%

- **Homework:**

The Homework assignments are related to the reading chapters. They will not be assigned a letter grade, but only a pass/fail check.

Each assignment includes two kinds of exercises.

- One kind is titled in the textbook as “Adopt a word”, where you would have to discuss some words of your choice according to what was discussed in the respective chapter. There are usually two or three exercises from which you can choose.
- The other kind, called ‘general’ in the textbook, are questions about the material discussed in the respective chapter.

At your choice, undergraduate students are to answer ONE of the questions suggested 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).

For each HW exercise I will create an “assignment” on Canvas, where the HW 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/~itl/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 HonorLock. I will give you an extra 30 minutes (15 before and 15 after the class) to complete the test.

There will be no make-up exams without a documented medical excuse.

- **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.

The way I take attendance is mainly via your comments, using the Chat button on Zoom, at the end of the class. I would appreciate it if you gave me some feedback on the material or any other issue.

- **Puzzles:**

For each issue she discusses, the author of our textbook added some exercises she calls Puzzles. She gives her answers to those puzzles at the end of the respective chapter. These are really good exercises and I recommend you try to answer them and then check your answers with hers.

As incentive, I will include in each test at least one of the puzzles.

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. **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-
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				

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 11, 13 and 15

- **Topics**
- Introduction of the syllabus
- Introduction of the course content: What is a word? What is a lexicon?
 - **Read:** Murphy: Preface and Ch. 1
 - **Adopt a word** (you can choose from Murphy's list on p. xv.)

Week 2: Jan 20 and 22 (Note: Jan 18 is MLK Day - no classes)

- **Topic**
Introduction of the course content (cont.): How to research words?
- **HW1** (due F): Two parts
Part one: 'Adopt a word'. Murphy P. 27, Ex. 1.8.
Both Grads and undergrads: Choose A or B
Part two: 'General exercises. Murphy Pp. 27-8.
Undergrads: Choose one exercise
Grads: Choose two exercises

Week 3: Jan 25, 27 and 29:

- **Topic:** The meaning of meaning
- **Read:** Murphy Ch. 2

Week 4: Feb 1, 3 and 5:

- **Topic:** Meaning and concepts
- **HW2 (F):** Two parts
Part one: 'Adopt a word'. Murphy P. 41, Ex. 2.9:
Grads and undergrads: Choose A or B
Part two: 'General exercises'. Murphy Pp. 41-2.
Undergrads: Choose one exercise
Grads: Choose two exercises

Week 5: Feb 8, 10 and 12:

- **Topics:** Components and Prototypes
 - **Read:** Murphy Ch. 3.
 - **Optional reading:** Murphy Ch. 4
 - **Review (W)**
 - **Test 1 (F)**
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Week 6: Feb 15, 17, 19

- **Topics:** Polysemy, homonymy and vagueness
- **Read:** Murphy Ch. 5

Week 7: Feb 22, 24 and 26

- **Topics:** Synonymy, antonymy, hyponymy

- **Read:** Murphy Ch. 6
- **HW4:** Two parts
Part one: 'Adopt a word'. Murphy P. 106, Ex. 5.8:
Both Grads and undergrads: Choose A, B or C
Part two: 'General exercises'. Murphy Pp. 106-7.
Undergrads: Choose one exercise
Grads: Choose two exercises

Week 8: March 1, 3 and 5

- **Topic:** Word classes
- **Read:** Murphy Ch. 7, sections 7.1-2

Week 9: March 8, 10 and 12:

- **Topic:** Word class prototypes
- **HW5 (F):** Two parts
Part one: 'Adopt a word'. Murphy P. 131, Ex. 6.7:
Both Grads and undergrads: Choose A or B
Part two: 'General exercises'. Murphy Pp. 131-2.
Undergrads: Choose one exercise
Grads: Choose two exercises

Week 10: March 15, 17 and 19

- **Topic:** Word classes and semantic types
 - **Read:** Murphy Ch. 7, sections 7.3-4
 - **Review (W)**
 - **Test 2 (F)**
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Week 11: March 22 and 26 (Note: March 24 is a recharge day – class suspended).

- **Topic:** Count and Mass Nouns
- **Read:** Murphy Ch. 8
- **HW6 (F):** Two parts
Part one: 'Adopt a word'. Murphy P. 146, Ex. 7.7:
Both Grads and undergrads: Choose A or B
Part two: 'General exercises'. Murphy Pp. 146-7.
Undergrads: Choose one exercise
Grads: Choose two exercises

Week 12: March 29, 31 and April 2

- **Topic:** Count and Mass Nouns (cont.)
- **Read:** Murphy Ch. 9, sections 9.1 and 9.2.1
- **HW7 (F):** Two parts
Part one: 'Adopt a word'. Murphy P. 170, Ex. 8.10
Part two: 'General exercises'. Murphy P. 171.
Undergrads: Choose one exercise

Grads: Choose two exercises

Week 13: April 5, 7 and 9

- **Topic:** Adjectives
- **Read:** Murphy Ch. 11

Week 14: April 12, 14 and 16

- **Topic:** Adjectives (cont.)
- **HW8 (F):** Two parts
Part one: 'Adopt a word'. Murphy P. 242, Ex. 11.9
Part two: 'General exercises'. Murphy P. 242.

Undergrads: Choose one exercise

Grads: Choose two exercises

Week 15: April 19 and 21:

Review (M). Test #3 (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.