

**INTRODUCTION TO SEMANTICS/ LIN 4803-3586
SEMANTICS I/ LIN 6804-26EG**

Fall 2024

MWF 5th period (11:45-12:35)

MAT 108

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Computer classroom support: 392-6683

Course website on E-Learning in Canvas: <http://elearning.ufl.edu>

Course Description

This course is an introduction to **truth Conditional Semantics**. As truth conditional semantics involves logic, the course will encompass both theoretical concepts and technical exercises in first- and second order logic. Students will learn how logical theories, such as propositional logic, predicate calculus and set theory, can be used to specify meanings, and explain semantic phenomena. An emphasis will be made on the distinction between pure logic and logic in natural language.

The course will also examine the interface of semantics and pragmatics. The latter concerns the study of meanings that are determined by linguistic communication in situated contexts, and that depends on the assumptions and intentions of language users.

Prerequisite: LIN 3010, graduate standing, or permission by instructor.

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

1. Allwood, Jens, Anderson, Lars-Gunner, and Dahl, Östen (AAD). 1977. *Logic in Linguistics*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
2. Kearns, Kate. 2011. *Semantics*, Second edition, New York: Palgrave Macmillan
3. Optional: Language in Action. An online course in language (download for free)

Course requirements and grading:

Undergraduates

Homework assignments 7 x 2% = 14%

Exams 4 x 21.5% = 86%

Attendance and Class Participation – see below.

Graduates

Homework assignments 7 x 2% = 14%

Exams 4 x 19% = 76%

Term paper 1 x 10% = 10%

Attendance and Class Participation – see below.

- *Homework*
 - Homework will not be graded but only given a pass/fail check. To pass, each assignment must be **completed**, and its lowest grade should be a D, i.e., at least 63% of the assignment should be good. For each failing or un-submitted homework assignment, your grade will be lowered by 2%.
 - For each homework exercise, I will create an “assignment” on Canvas, where it 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 University Honesty Policy (see below).
- *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.
 - **There will be no make-up exams without a documented medical excuse.**
- *Attendance and participation*
 - Attendance and participation are essential. You are unlikely to succeed in this course without coming to class and paying attention. The material on the exams will come from the texts but also from what we do in class. Lecture notes and the texts will not always coincide.
 - Each student will be allowed 3 absences without penalty. After that, one point will be deduced from the final grade for every non-excused absence. Showing up later or leaving earlier is considered ½ absences.
- *Term paper (Relevant for Grads only)*
 - A term paper is a conference-style paper, to be presented in class weeks 13-15.
 - The paper (10+ pages, double space, Font 12) and oral presentation (10-15 minutes, plus questions) will constitute 10% of the final grade (5% for the written part and 5% for the presentation) of graduate students.
 - **Topics must be approved by week 12.** All papers are due by December 4th.

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, homework, presentation, etc.).

Grading scale

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 or above	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	59.9 or below				

Other Issues

- **Cellphone and Laptop Policy:**

To ensure full attention during class, you can only use laptops for taking notes and cellphones for emergencies.

- **Course Evaluations**

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

- **University Honesty Policy**

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” [The Honor Code](#) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor in this class.

- **Students Requiring Accommodations**

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the [Disability Resource Center](#). It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

- **Software Use**

All faculty, staff, and students of the University are required and expected to obey the laws and legal agreements governing software use. Failure to do so can lead to monetary damages and/or criminal penalties for the individual violator. Because such violations are also against University policies and rules, disciplinary action will be taken as appropriate. We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to uphold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.

- **Student Privacy**

There are federal laws protecting your privacy with regards to grades earned in courses and on individual assignments. For more information, please see the [Notification to Students of FERPA Rights](#).

Campus Resources:

- Health and Wellness
 - *U Matter, We Care*: If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu, 352-392-1575, or visit [U Matter, We Care website](#) to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.
 - *Counseling and Wellness Center*: [Visit the Counseling and Wellness Center website](#) or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.
 - *Student Health Care Center*: Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or [visit the Student Health Care Center website](#).
 - *UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center*: For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; [Visit the UF Health Emergency Room and Trauma Center website](#).
 - *Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SAES)*: Student Health Care Center, 352-392-1161;
 - *University Police Department*: [Visit UF Police Department website](#) or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).
- Academic Resources
 - **[E-learning technical support](#)**: Contact the [UF Computing Help Desk](#) at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at helpdesk@ufl.edu.
 - **[Career Resource Center](#)**: Reitz Union Suite 1300, 352-392-1601. Career assistance and counseling services.
 - **[Library Support](#)**, Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.
 - **[Teaching Center](#)**, Broward Hall, 352-392-2010 or to make an appointment 352-392-6420. General study skills and tutoring.
 - **[Writing Studio](#)**, 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.
 - **[Student Complaints On-Campus](#)**: [Visit the Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code webpage for more information](#).
 - **[On-Line Students Complaints](#)**: [View the Distance Learning Student Complaint Process](#).

- **Schedule (subject to changes according to class progress):**

Week 1: 8/23

Course overview and introduction: What is meaning? - Semantics vs. pragmatics

Read: Kearns §§1.1-1.3.3; AAD ch.1.

Week 2: 8/26, 28, 30

Lexical semantics, meta- vs. object language, etc.

HW1 (F)

Week 3: 9/2, 4, 6 (Note: 9/2 is Labor Day – no classes; 9/4, 6 Instructor is on a Conference - Classes cancelled.)

Week 4: 9/9, 11, 13

Set theory.

Read: AAD §§ 2.1-2.3

Week 5: 9/16, 18, 20

Set theory (cont.)

Read: AAD § 2.4

HW2 (F)

Week 6: 9/23, 25, 27

Inferences and entailments

Read: AAD ch.3; Kearns §1.3.4

Propositional logic

Read: Kearns §§ 2.1 – 2.2; AAD §§ 4.1-4.2

Review (W); Exam1 (F)

Week 7: 9/30, 10/4 (Note: 10/2 is Rosh Ha-Shana Eve; class cancelled)

Propositional logic – Continue

HW3 (F)

Week 8: 10/7, 9, 11

Read: Kearns §2.3; AAD §5.1

Predicate logic

Read: Kearns §3

HW4 (F)

Week 9: 10/14, 16 (Note: 10/18 is Homecoming - No classes)

Predicate logic- Continue.

Review (M) Exam 2 (W)

Week 10: 10/21, 23, 25

Predicate logic (cont.): Formal properties of relations

Read: AAD §5.8, in particular: §§5.8.1-4

HW 5 (F)

Week 11: 10/28, 30, 11/1

Natural language quantifiers

Read: Kearns §§6.1-2

HW6 (F)

Week 12: 11/4, 6, 8

Read Kearns §§6.3-4.

Week 13: 11/13, 15 (Note: 11/11 Veterans Day – No classes)

Natural language quantifiers (cont.)

Read Kearns §6.5-6.6.

- A graduate student's presentation

- **Review (W) Exam 3 (F)**

Week 14: 11/18, 20, 22

Natural language quantifiers (sum.)

Read Kearns §6.7; §6.9.

- A graduate student's presentation

HW7 (F)

Week 15: 11/25, 27, 29

Thanksgivings week – no classes.

Week 16: 12/2, 4

- **Review (M)**
- **Exam 4 (W)**
- **Term Paper is due (M)**