

FORMAL SEMANTICS/SEMANTICS II
LIN 4850- 2B10/ LIN 6856-0003
Spring 2020

Instructor: Galia Hatav
Time: MWF 5th period (11:45-12:35)
Place: Matherly 0102
Office hours: MWF 6th period (12:50-1:40); or by appointment
Office: Tur 4129
Tel.: 294-7452
E-mail: ghatav@ufl.edu
Course website on E-Learning in Canvas: <http://elearning.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 goal is for students to acquire the main ideas and techniques of Type-Theory and Lambda-notation, and be acquainted with more specific topics, as many as time permits.

Pre-requirements: LIN4803/LIN6804 offered at UF, or an equivalent

In particular, it is assumed that students have already had a basic introduction to first order logic, set theory, the semantics-pragmatics distinction and (Generative) syntax.

Course requirements and grading:

Undergraduates

*Homework	7 x 2% = 14%
*Two take-home tests	2 x 25% = 50%
*Reaction Papers:	10 x 2% = 20%
*Chapter Presentation:	1 x 16% = 16%

Graduates

*Homework	7 x 2% = 14%
*Two take-home tests	2 x 25% = 50%
*Reaction Papers	10 x 2% = 20%
*Chapter Presentation:	1 x 6% = 6%
*Term paper	1 x 10% = 10%

- *Homework*

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.

- *Exams*

There will be two take-home exams

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

Test 1 will be given to you on Wednesday, Feb 23, and is due Friday, Feb 25;

Test 2 will be given to you on Monday, April 18, and is due Wednesday, April 20.

- *Reaction Papers*

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). They will not be assigned a letter grade, but only a pass/fail check.

- *Article Presentation*

You are required to choose **one** of the reading assignments and present it in class (15-20 minutes, including questions and discussion).

The chosen chapter must be presented the week the reaction paper on that chapter is due (Wednesday or Friday). This way the other students will be familiar with the content of your presentation, so they will be able to participate in the discussion more efficiently.

- *Term paper*

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 10% of the final grade (of graduate students). **Topics must be approved by week 13.** All papers due by April 20.

- *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 1/2 absences.

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-
93-100	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 Issues

- We will have face-to-face instructional sessions to accomplish the student learning objectives of this course. In response to COVID-19, the following policies and requirements are in place to maintain our learning environment and to enhance the safety of our in-classroom interactions.
 - You are expected to wear approved face coverings at all times during class and within buildings.
 - This course has been assigned a physical classroom with enough capacity to maintain physical distancing (6 feet between individuals) requirements. Please utilize designated seats and maintain appropriate spacing between students. Please do not move desks or stations.
 - Sanitizing supplies are available in the classroom if you wish to wipe down your desks prior to sitting down and at the end of the class.
 - Follow your instructor's guidance on how to enter and exit the classroom. Practice physical distancing to the extent possible when entering and exiting the classroom.
 - If you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms ([Click here for guidance from the CDC on symptoms of coronavirus](#)), please use the UF Health screening system and follow the instructions on whether

you are able to attend class. [Click here for UF Health guidance on what to do if you have been exposed to or are experiencing Covid-19 symptoms.](#)

Course materials will be provided to you with an excused absence, and you will be given a reasonable amount of time to make up work. [Find more information in the university attendance policies.](#)

- **Cell Phone and laptop Policy:**

To ensure full attention during class, you can only use laptops for taking notes and cell phones for emergency.

- **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](#)

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

Week 1. Jan 5 and 7

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

Week 2. Jan 10, 12 and 14

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

Week 3. Jan 19 and 21 (Note: Jan 17 is MLK Day - no classes):

Reaction paper # 2 (due W): Elbourne Ch. 2
HW #1 (posted online): Due F

- Extension and phrase structures.

Week 4. Jan 24, 26 and 28

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

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

Week 5. Jan 31, Feb 2 & 4

Reaction paper # 4 (due W): 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 7, 9, 11

HW #2 (posted online): Due F
- Lambda operator (cont.)

Week 7. Feb 14, 16, 18

Read H & K, Ch. 3.

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

Reaction paper # 5 (due W): Elbourne Ch. 5
HW #3 (posted online): Due F

Week 8. Feb 21, 23, 25

Reaction paper # 6 (due W): Elbourne Ch. 6
Predicates as restrictive modifiers (cont.)

Submitting Take-home Test #1 (F)

Week 9. Feb 28, March 2, 4

Reaction Paper #7 (Due W): Elbourne Ch. 7
- Some digression: PTQ (M)
Optional Reading: Gamut Ch. 4.

Week 10. March 7, 9, 11: Spring Break – No classes

Week 11. March 14, 16, 18

Reaction Paper #8: Elbourne Ch. 8 (Due W)
The definite article
Read: H&K section 4.4

Week 12. March 21, 23, 25

Relative Clauses
Read: H&K Ch. 5, §5.1-§5.2.1, pp. 86-92
Reaction Paper #9 on H&K pp. 61-73 (W)
HW #4 (posted online): Due F

Week 13. March 28, 30, April 1

Relative Clauses (cont.)
Read: H&K Ch. 5, §5.2.2-§5.2.3, pp. 92-98
HW # 5 (posted online): Due F

Week 14. April 4, 6, 8

- Multiple variables

- **Read: H&K Ch. 5, §5.3, pp. 106-112**
Reaction Paper #10: Elbourne Ch. 9 (Due W)
HW # 6 (posted online): Due F
Student's presentation

Week 15. April 11, 13: (Note: April 15 is Passover Eve – class cancelled)

- Variable Binding.
Read: H&K Ch. 5, §5.4, pp. 115-118
HW # 7 (posted online): Due F
- Students' presentation

Week 16. April 18 and 20

- Review/Student's 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.