

Word Meaning
LIN 4930-2601/LIN6932-4305
Spring 2023

Instructor: Galia Hatav
Time: MWF 5th period (11:45-12:35)
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Course website on E-Learning in Canvas: <http://elearning.ufl.edu>

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.

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 deduced from the final grade for every non-excused absence. Showing up later or leaving earlier is considered 1/2 absence.

- **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 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>

Course Evaluation: <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>

Schedule (subject to changes according to class progress):

Week 1: Week 1: Jan 9, 11 and 13

- **Topics:**
 - Discussing the syllabus
 - Introduction: 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 18 and 20 (Note: Jan 16 is MLK Day - no classes)

- **Topic:**
 - Introduction (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 23, 25 and 27

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

Week 4: Jan 30, Feb 1 and 3:

- **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 6, 8 & 10:

- **Topics:** Components and Prototypes
- **Read:** Murphy Ch. 3.
- **Review (W)**
- **Test 1 (F)**

Week 6: Feb 13, 15, 17

- **Topic:** Jackendoff's CS
- **Read:** Murphy Ch. 4, Sections 4.1-2

Week 7: Feb 20, 22, 24

- **Topic:** Jackendoff's CS (cont.)
- **HW3 (F): Two parts**
 - Part one: 'Adopt a word'. Murphy Pp. 55-6, Ex. 3.8:
Both Grads and undergrads: Choose A or B
 - Part two: 'General exercises.' Murphy Pp. 56-7.
Undergrads: Choose one exercise
Grads: Choose two exercises

Week 8: Feb 27, March 1, 3

- **Topics:** Pustejovsky's LG; Wierzbicka' NSM
- **Read:** Murphy Ch. 4, Sections 4.3-4

Week 9: March 6, 8, 10:

- **Topics:** Polysemy, homonymy, and vagueness
- **Read:** Murphy Ch. 5
- **HW4 (F): Two parts**
 - Part one: 'Adopt a word'. Murphy P. 78, Ex. 4.9
Both Grads and undergrads: Choose A or B or (C) below
(C) If your word is a verb, represent it according to Jackendoff's Conceptual Semantics.
 - Part two: 'General exercises.' Murphy Pp. 78-9, or Saeed (2009).
Undergrads: Choose one exercise from Murphy's or do one of Saeed's (2009) given below.
Grads: Choose two exercises from Murphy's, or one from Murphy and one from Saeed (2009) given below, or two from Saeed.

Week 10: March 13, 15, 17: Spring Break – No classes

Week 11: March 20, 22, and 24

- Topics:** Polysemy, homonymy, and vagueness (cont.)
- **Review (W)**
 - **Test 2 (F)**

Week 12: March 27, 29, 31

- **Topics:** Synonymy, antonymy, hyponymy
- **Read:** Murphy Ch. 6
- **HW5 (F): 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: Do both exercises

Week 13: April 3, 7 (Note: April 5 is Passover Eve – Class cancelled)

- **Topic:** Word classes
- **Read:** Murphy Ch. 7
- **HW6 (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 14: April 10, 12, 14

- **Topic:** Nouns and Countability
- **Read:** Murphy Ch. 8
- **HW7 (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:** Do both exercises

Week 15: April 17, 19, 21

- **Topic:** Nouns and Countability (cont.)
- **HW8 (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 16: April 24 and 26

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.