

Course Title	Semantics and Pragmatics				
Course Code	LIN350				
Course Type	Elective				
Level	Bachelor (1 <sup>st</sup> Cycle)				
Year / Semester	3 <sup>rd</sup> Year /6 <sup>th</sup> Semester or 4 <sup>th</sup> Year /7 <sup>th</sup> or 8 <sup>th</sup> Semester				
Teacher's Name	TBA				
ECTS	6	Lectures / week	Up to 6 teleconferences	Laboratories / week	N/A
Course Purpose and Objectives	<p>The course aims to present an overview of the trends and theories of meaning in Linguistics. With particular emphasis on the English language, the course provides students with the knowledge and skills to explore the way we make sense of the world through language. From the perspective of Semantics, students will study the relationship between units of language and their meaning; from the perspective of Pragmatics, students will examine how we use language in communication. In particular, students will explore appropriate analytical tools for investigating communication in action and look at the written and unwritten 'rules' of meaning in interaction. Overall, students will investigate the ways Semantics offers a set of possible meanings and the ways Pragmatics deals with the choice among the semantic possibilities.</p>				
Learning Outcomes	<p>Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• implement theoretical concepts and technical terms to describe contextual meaning in English.</li> <li>• examine the dynamic nature of speaker meaning and investigate utterances considering the central roles of speaker and hearer</li> <li>• explore the linguistically-encoded meaning of a sentence.</li> <li>• analyse the inferential nature of verbal and written communication in a principled way.</li> <li>• distinguish the intricacies underlying concepts, word meaning and lexical semantics.</li> <li>• solve exercises on the meaning potential (semantics) of English and the ways language knowledge is put to use (pragmatics).</li> </ul>				
Prerequisites	LIN100, LIN105, LIN200, LIN230, LIN300 or consent of the instructor	Co-requisites	None		
Course Content	<p>The course content is organized into the following areas:</p> <p>The study of meaning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sentences and utterances</li> <li>• Types of meaning: speaker meaning, sentence meaning, utterance meaning</li> <li>• Denotation, sense, reference and deixis</li> <li>• Semantic and pragmatic meaning</li> </ul>				

### Sense Relations

- Propositions and entailment
- principle of compositionality
- Synonymy
- Complementarity, antonymy, converseness and incompatibility
- Hyponymy

### Nouns, Adjectives and Verbs

- Characteristic properties of nouns
- Count vs. mass nouns
- Gradability in adjectives
- Composing adjectives with nouns
- Adjectives meaning in context
- Verb types and arguments
- Thematic relations

### Tense and Aspect

- Tense: present, past and future
- Tense and adverbials
- Habituality and simple aspect
- Progressive aspect
- Perfect aspect

### Modality, Scope and Quantification

- Modality: modal verbs and tense
- Deontic and epistemic modality
- Semantic scope
- Quantification: types of quantifiers
- Quantifier scope

### Maxims and Implicatures

- Gricean Maxims: quality, quantity, manner and relevance
- Conversational Implicatures: Quantity implicatures, scalar implicatures, relevance implicatures, manner implicatures
- Relevance Theory
- Presuppositions

### Given and new material in the English Language

- Definiteness
- Pseudo-clefts and it-clefts
- Passives
- Focal stress/Focus

### Figurative Language

- Literal and figurative usage
- Irony
- Metaphor, metonymy and simile

### How to do things with words/Speech acts

- Locutionary, perlocutionary and illocutionary acts
- Syntactic cues and indirect speech acts
- Lexical cues and speech acts
- Discourse cues and speech acts

### Theories of politeness

- Delimiting the concept of politeness

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Politeness in terms of principles and maxims</li> <li>• Politeness and Face</li> <li>• Face-threatening acts</li> </ul>				
Teaching Methodology	E-Learning				
Bibliography	<p>Cruse, Alan. (2011) <i>Meaning in Language: An Introduction to Semantics and Pragmatics</i> (3<sup>rd</sup> Ed). Oxford University Press.</p> <p>Griffiths, Patrick and Cummins, Chris. (2017). <i>An Introduction to English Semantics and Pragmatics</i> (2<sup>nd</sup> Ed). Edinburgh University Press.</p> <p>Huang, Yan. (2013). <i>Pragmatics</i>. Oxford University Press</p> <p>Kearns, Kate. (2011) <i>Semantics</i>, (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition), Palgrave Publishing Co.</p> <p>Kroeger, R. Paul (ed.). (2019). <i>Analyzing Meaning. An introduction to semantics and pragmatics</i> (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.) Language Science Press.</p> <p>Thomas, Jenny A. (2014) <i>Meaning in Interaction: An Introduction to Pragmatics</i>. Routledge (e book)</p>				
Assessment	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Final Examination</td> <td>50%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Assignments/On-going Evaluation</td> <td>50%</td> </tr> </table>	Final Examination	50%	Assignments/On-going Evaluation	50%
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Language	English				