

LT3211: SEMANTICS

Effective Term

Semester A 2024/25

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

Semantics

Subject Code

LT - Linguistics and Translation

Course Number

3211

Academic Unit

Linguistics and Translation (LT)

College/School

College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (CH)

Course Duration

One Semester

Credit Units

3

Level

B1, B2, B3, B4 - Bachelor's Degree

Medium of Instruction

English

Medium of Assessment

English

Prerequisites

LT2201 Introduction to Linguistics or LT2229 Fundamentals of Linguistics or LT2290 Introduction to Language Studies

Precursors

Nil

Equivalent Courses

CTL3211 Semantics

Exclusive Courses

Nil

Part II Course Details

Abstract

The aim of this course is to examine aspects of linguistic meaning and language use.

Upon completion of this course students should be able to:

- a. Recognize the relation between linguistic expressions and objects in the world;
- b. Describe and analyze sense properties and sense relations; and
- c. Analyze language data from the semantic aspect and discover and formulate generalizations that are observationally, descriptively and explanatorily adequate.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs		Weighting (if DEC-A1 app.)	DEC-A1	DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1	Identify basic issues in contemporary semantics.		x	x	
2	Use the basic formal toolkit for semantic composition.		x	x	
3	Apply learnt concepts to solve novel semantic problems.		x	x	x

A1: Attitude

Develop an attitude of discovery/innovation/creativity, as demonstrated by students possessing a strong sense of curiosity, asking questions actively, challenging assumptions or engaging in inquiry together with teachers.

A2: Ability

Develop the ability/skill needed to discover/innovate/create, as demonstrated by students possessing critical thinking skills to assess ideas, acquiring research skills, synthesizing knowledge across disciplines or applying academic knowledge to real-life problems.

A3: Accomplishments

Demonstrate accomplishment of discovery/innovation/creativity through producing /constructing creative works/new artefacts, effective solutions to real-life problems or new processes.

Learning and Teaching Activities (LTAs)

LTAs		Brief Description	CILO No.	Hours/week (if applicable)
1	Lectures	Students will engage with theoretical foundations and concepts related to the above learning outcomes. Emphasis is put on how these theories can be applied to language data, particularly English, and examples are used to make abstract concepts easier to be absorbed.	1, 2, 3	3 hours
2	Assignments	Students will complete three assignments based on what they have learnt in lectures and tutorials. Emphasis is placed on both theoretical aspects and how theoretical concepts can be applied to analyze English data.	1, 2, 3	

Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

ATs		CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks (e.g. Parameter for GenAI use)
1	Assignments Three assignments	1, 2, 3	60	
2	End-of-term test An end-of-term test will be given to evaluate how well students have achieved the CILOs.	1, 2, 3	40	

Continuous Assessment (%)

100

Examination (%)

0

Assessment Rubrics (AR)**Assessment Task**

1. Assignments

Criterion

Students are required to complete three assignments during the semester.

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

Properly documented assignments; Precise, excellent writing

Good (B+, B, B-)

Properly documented assignments; Precise, clear writing

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Properly documented assignments; Precise, clear writing, with few grammatical errors.

Marginal (D)

Properly documented assignments; Work is adequately written, with some grammatical errors.

Failure (F)

Plagiarism; Irrelevance of content; Unreadability (including major grammatical or structural problems)

Assessment Task

2. End-of-term test

Criterion

An end-of-term test will be given to evaluate how well students have achieved the CILOs. Format and style of the questions will be similar to those of the assignments and tutorial exercises.

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

Excellent understanding of concepts, terminology and findings in Semantics

Good (B+, B, B-)

Clear understanding of concepts, terminology and findings in semantics

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Good understanding of concepts, terminology and findings in semantics.

Marginal (D)

Satisfactory understanding of concepts, terminology and findings in semantics.

Failure (F)

Failure to demonstrate understanding of content; Academic Dishonesty

Part III Other Information

Keyword Syllabus

Basic concepts in semantics, reference, sense, logic, predicates and arguments, word meaning, English tense, situation types, Function Application, Predicate Modification

Reading List**Compulsory Readings**

Title	
1	Kearns, Kate. (2011) Semantics. 2nd edition. New York: Palgrave Macmillan.
2	Lecture notes and tutorial exercises.

Additional Readings

Title	
1	Cann, Ronnie. (1993) Formal Semantics. Cambridge: CUP.
2	Cann, Ronnie, Ruth Kempson and Eleni Gregoromichelaki. (2009) Semantics: an introduction to meaning in language. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
3	Chierchia, Chierchia and Sally McConnell-Ginet. (2000) Meaning and Grammar. 2nd edition. London: MIT Press.
4	Heim, Irene and Angelika Kratzer. (1998) Semantics in Generative Grammar. Oxford: Blackwell.
5	Hurford, James R., Brendan Heasley and Michael B. Smith. (2007) Semantics: A coursebook. 2nd edition. New York: Cambridge UP.
6	Kempson, Ruth M. (1977) Semantic Theory. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
7	Portner, Paul H. (2005) What is Meaning? Fundamentals of Formal Semantics. Oxford: Blackwell Publishing.
8	Saeed, John I. (2003) Semantics. Oxford: Blackwell.
9	de Swart, Henriëtte. (1998) Introduction to Natural Language Semantics. Stanford: CSLI Publications.