LING6930 - Language and Meaning
Course Outline

Course Co-ordinator: Dr. Alan Libert
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Consultation hours: TBA

Course Overview

Semester: Semester 2 - 2009
Unit Weighting: 10
Teaching Methods: Lecture

Brief Course Description
The course focuses on the study of the analysis of meaning as it is expressed through elements of language such as words and sentences (the field of semantics) and as it is understood in different real world contexts (the filed of pragmatics). Particular attention will be paid to meaning relations such as synonymy (having the same meaning) and oppositeness, to various types of conclusions that sentences lead to or involve (such as presuppositions), to elements that crucially depend on context for their interpretation (including deictic elements, which are linked to the non-linguistic context, to the meaning of verbal categories such as tense and mood, and to the relation between language and logic.

Contact Hours
Seminar for 1 Hour per Week for the Full Term
Lecture for 2 Hours per Week for the Full Term
or equivalent by Distance Mode

Learning Materials/Texts: materials will be available on Blackboard

Course Objectives
Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to demonstrate:
1) an understanding of nature of meaning as expressed through language;

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2) an understanding of basic principles of semantics and pragmatics as applied to English
3) an awareness of the range of linguistic devices for expressing time and space relations;
4) an understanding of the concepts of deixis and anaphora;
5) an understanding of logical relations relevant to linguistic analysis, such as negation, modality, scope, presupposition and implication

**Course Content**
Topics to be covered include:
* deixis: reference to the spatio-temporal frame encompassing the speech act
* tense and time reference: tense and aspect systems in the English verb
* mood and modality
* anaphora: textual reference; the function of pronouns and other anaphoric items
* pragmatics: the study of speech acts; presupposition and implication

**Assessment Items**
| Essays / Written Assignments | Two take-home assignments, involving problem sets and short answer questions (25% each) - 50% Essay (approx. 3,500 words) - 50% |

**Assumed Knowledge**
LING6910 (or equivalent)

**Callaghan Campus Timetable**
LING6930
**LANGUAGE AND MEANING**
Enquiries: School of Humanities and Social Science
Semester 2 - 2009
Lecture: Tuesday 13:00 - 15:00 [SRR205A] LING3310
and Seminar: Wednesday 15:00 - 16:00 [MC110]

**WebLearn GradSchool.com Timetable**
LING6930
**LANGUAGE AND MEANING**
Enquiries: School of Humanities and Social Science
Semester 2 - 2009
Dist. Learn: Friday 19:00 - 21:00

**IMPORTANT UNIVERSITY INFORMATION**

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**
Academic integrity, honesty, and a respect for knowledge, truth and ethical practices are fundamental to the business of the University. These principles are at the core of all academic endeavour in teaching, learning and research. Dishonest practices contravene academic values, compromise the integrity of research and devalue the quality of learning. To preserve the quality of learning for the individual and others, the University may impose severe sanctions on activities that undermine academic integrity. There are two major categories of academic dishonesty:

**Academic fraud** is a form of academic dishonesty that involves making a false representation to gain an unjust advantage. Without limiting the generality of this definition, it can include:

a) falsification of data;
b) using a substitute person to undertake, in full or part, an examination or other assessment item;
c) reusing one's own work, or part thereof, that has been submitted previously and counted towards another course (without permission);
d) making contact or colluding with another person, contrary to instructions, during an examination or other assessment item;

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e) bringing material or device(s) into an examination or other assessment item other than such as may be specified for that assessment item; and

f) making use of computer software or other material and device(s) during an examination or other assessment item other than such as may be specified for that assessment item.

g) contract cheating or having another writer compete for tender to produce an essay or assignment and then submitting the work as one's own.

**Plagiarism** is the presentation of the thoughts or works of another as one's own. University policy prohibits students plagiarising any material under any circumstances. Without limiting the generality of this definition, it may include:

a) copying or paraphrasing material from any source without due acknowledgment;

b) using another person's ideas without due acknowledgment;

c) collusion or working with others without permission, and presenting the resulting work as though it were completed independently.

**Turnitin** is an electronic text matching system. During assessing any assessment item the University may -

· Reproduce this assessment item and provide a copy to another member of the University; and/or

· Communicate a copy of this assessment item to a text matching service (which may then retain a copy of the item on its database for the purpose of future checking).

· Submit the assessment item to other forms of plagiarism checking

**RE-MARKS AND MODERATIONS**

Students can access the University's policy at: [http://www.newcastle.edu.au/policylibrary/000769.html](http://www.newcastle.edu.au/policylibrary/000769.html)

**MARKS AND GRADES RELEASED DURING TERM**

All marks and grades released during term are indicative only until formally approved by the Head of School.

**SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES AFFECTING ASSESSMENT ITEMS**

*Extension of Time for Assessment Items, Deferred Assessment and Special Consideration for Assessment Items or Formal Written Examinations* items must be submitted by the due date in the Course Outline unless the Course Coordinator approves an extension. Unapproved late submissions will be penalised in line with the University policy.

Requests for Extensions of Time must be lodged no later than the due date of the item. This applies to students:

· applying for an extension of time for submission of an assessment item on the basis of medical, compassionate, hardship/trauma or unavoidable commitment; or

· whose attendance at or performance in an assessment item or formal written examination has been or will be affected by medical, compassionate, hardship/trauma or unavoidable commitment.

Students must report the circumstances, with supporting documentation, as outlined in the Special Circumstances Affecting Assessment Items Procedure at: [http://www.newcastle.edu.au/policylibrary/000641.html](http://www.newcastle.edu.au/policylibrary/000641.html)

**Note:** different procedures apply for minor and major assessment tasks.

**Students should be aware of the following important deadlines:**

· Special Consideration Requests must be lodged no later than 3 working days after the due date of submission or examination.

· Rescheduling Exam requests must be received no later than 10 working days prior the first date of
the examination period.

_Late applications may not be accepted._ Students who cannot meet the above deadlines due to extenuating circumstances should speak firstly to their Program Officer or their Program Executive if studying in Singapore.

**STUDENTS WITH A DISABILITY OR CHRONIC ILLNESS**

University is committed to providing a range of support services for students with a disability or chronic illness. If you have a disability or chronic illness which you feel may impact on your studies please feel free to discuss your support needs with your lecturer or course coordinator.

Disability Support may also be provided by the Student Support Service (Disability). Students must be registered to receive this type of support. To register contact the Disability Liaison Officer on 02 4921 5766, email at: _student-disability@newcastle.edu.au_. As some forms of support can take a few weeks to implement it is extremely important that you discuss your needs with your lecturer, course coordinator or Student Support Service staff at the beginning of each semester. For more information on confidentiality and documentation visit the Student Support Service (Disability) website: _www.newcastle.edu.au/services/disability_.

**CHANGING YOUR ENROLMENT**

Students enrolled after the census dates listed in the link below are liable for the full cost of their student contribution or fees for that term.


**Online Tutorial Registration:**

Students are required to enrol in the Lecture and a specific Tutorial time for this course via the Online Registration system. Refer - [_http://studinfo1.newcastle.edu.au/rego/stud_choose_login.cfm_](http://studinfo1.newcastle.edu.au/rego/stud_choose_login.cfm)

NB: Registrations close at the end of week 2 of semester.

**Studentmail and Blackboard:** Refer - _www.blackboard.newcastle.edu.au/_

This course uses Blackboard and studentmail to contact students, so you are advised to keep your email accounts within the quota to ensure you receive essential messages. To receive an expedited response to queries, post questions on the Blackboard discussion forum if there is one, or if emailing staff directly use the course code in the subject line of your email. Students are advised to check their studentmail and the course Blackboard site on a weekly basis.

**Important Additional Information**

Details about the following topics are available on your course Blackboard site (where relevant). Refer - _www.blackboard.newcastle.edu.au/_

- Written Assignment Presentation and Submission Details
- Online copy submission to Turnitin
- Penalties for Late Assignments
- Special Circumstances
- No Assignment Re-submission
- Re-marks & Moderations
- Return of Assignments
- Preferred Referencing Style
- Student Representatives
- Student Communication
- Essential Online Information for Students