LING6930 - Language and Meaning
Course Outline

Course Co-ordinator: Dr. Silvia Ratcheva
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Consultation hours: Thursday 3.00 pm – 4.00 pm
Room: MC 136, McMullin Building

Course Overview
Semester: Semester 2 - 2010
Unit Weighting: 10
Teaching Methods: Lecture and seminar; WEBLEARN
Contact Hours: Lecture for 2 hours per week for the full term
Seminar for 1 hour per week for the full term
or equivalent by Distance Mode

Callaghan Campus Timetable
Lecture Tuesday 1.00 pm - 3.00 pm Room SRR205A LING6930 shared with LING3310.
and Seminar Tuesday 3.00 pm - 4.00 pm Room MCG29

WebLearn GradSchool.com Timetable
Dist. Learn Friday 7.00 pm – 9.00 pm

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 field 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.

Course Outline Issued and Correct as at: Week 1, Semester 2 - 2010

CTS Download Date: 14 July 2010
Learning Materials/Texts

Useful books have been put on Short Loan in Auchmuty.
Course materials will be made available through the Blackboard site.

Assumed Knowledge

LING6910 or equivalent

Course Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to demonstrate:
- an understanding of the nature of meaning as expressed through language;
- an understanding of the basic principles of semantics and pragmatics as applied to English;
- an awareness of the range of linguistic devices for expressing time and space relations;
- an understanding of the concepts of deixis and anaphora;
- 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;

Course Outline

*Lexical semantics*
  Week 1: Sense, reference and sense relations
  Week 2: Theories of semantics

*Meaning in grammar I: Entities and events*
  Week 3: Representing entities
  Week 4: Representing events

*Language, culture and cognition*
  Week 5: Cultural categories and Linguistic Relativity
  Week 6: Language of space

*Meaning in grammar II: Deixis, tense, aspect and mood*
  Week 7: Deixis and tense, aspect and mood
  Week 8: Tense, aspect and mood in English

*Pragmatics*
  Week 9: Utterance meaning, implicature, and Relevance Theory
  Week 10: Speech Act Theory and Politeness Theory

*Discourse*
  Week 11: Information structure and discourse and context
  Week 12: Conversational analysis
Assessment Items

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<tr>
<th>Essays / Written Assignments</th>
<th>Assignment 1 (problem sets &amp; short answer questions) - 25%</th>
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<tr>
<td>Essays / Written Assignments</td>
<td>Assignment 2 (problem sets &amp; short answer questions) - 25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Essays / Written Assignments</td>
<td>Essay (approx. 3500 words) - 50%</td>
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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://www.newcastle.edu.au/study/enrolment/regdates.html](http://www.newcastle.edu.au/study/enrolment/regdates.html)

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

Studentmail and Blackboard: Refer - [www.blackboard.newcastle.edu.au](http://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](http://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