

## LING 319: INTRODUCTION TO SEMANTICS

<b>Days and Time</b>	<b>TR 14:00-15:15</b>
<b>Room</b>	<b>SS010</b>
<b>Instructor</b>	<b>Professor S.E. Carroll</b>
<b>Office</b>	<b>SS 830</b>
<b>Telephone</b>	<b>403-220-5492</b>
<b>Email</b>	<a href="mailto:carrolls@ucalgary.ca">carrolls@ucalgary.ca</a>
<b>Office Hours</b>	<b>Wednesdays 13:00 to 14:45 or by appointment (availability for appointments is restricted to T/Th after 16:00 and W after 17:00).</b>
<b>Instructor's web page</b>	<a href="http://ling.ucalgary.ca/profiles/susanne-carroll">http://ling.ucalgary.ca/profiles/susanne-carroll</a>
<b>Undergraduate Student Advisor</b>	<b>Professor Robert Murray, SS 824, 403-220-8109, <a href="mailto:lingadv@ucalgary.ca">lingadv@ucalgary.ca</a></b>

### Course description

This course provides an introduction to the study of conventional meaning as expressed by language. We will compare and contrast throughout psychological versus logical approaches to meaning. Psychological approaches to meaning attempt to integrate discussions of linguistic meaning in a broader framework concerned with sensory perception (especially visual perception), epistemology, language processing and language acquisition. Logical approaches to meaning are concerned with the nature of valid inference and rational thinking. Psychological approaches will be discussed in the lectures; the focus of the textbook is on valid inference, argumentation, and rational thinking.

Topics will include basic ideas as to what 'meanings' are: truth, reference and sense; ontological categories (THING, STATE, EVENT, PLACE, ...); 'sentence meanings' (propositions), semantic roles. We will also look at how meaning and grammar relate to each other by examining the structure of propositions (predicates and their arguments), with a particular focus on the semantics of spatial location (prepositions and prepositional phrases) and motion verbs. We will return to the topic of reference to examine subtypes of NPs and what they do semantically (proper names, deixis, generics, specific vs. non-specific reference). We will look at some expressions that are neither referential nor predicatives (semantic operators like negation and quantification). As we go along, we shall discuss some of the major figures in the philosophy of language, logic and semantics, as well as some central ideas of current theories of meaning.

### Targeted students

This is a required course for majors in the Linguistics B.A. program. Other students with an interest in meaning, especially those who are interested in how grammar and meaning interact, are welcome.

### Prerequisites

Successful completion of LING 201 (*Introduction to Linguistics*). "Successful completion" means a grade of at least C-. Successful completion of a course in syntax will make things much easier for you.

### Course schedule

See syllabus posted in Blackboard file folder "Course information".

### Textbook

Lepore, Ernest, with Sam Cumming. 2013. *Meaning and argument. An introduction to logic through language*. Malden, Ma: Wiley-Blackwell. Revised 2<sup>nd</sup> edition.

This textbook has been ordered and should be available for purchase at the UC bookstore.

### **Assignments**

There will be three distinct types of assignments

- PARTICIPATION (pass/fail) = 30%
- 2 SETS OF EXERCISES (individual work; graded) = 20%
- 2 TESTS = 50%

PARTICIPATION has three parts: questions assigned in class, additional written work based on the lectures, and discussion afterwards in class.

Ungraded assignments will also prepare you for the graded tests. You will practice in the pass/fail format interpreting questions, carrying out analyses, and using semantic notation.

*Responses will be assessed as Pass or Fail. To count as a Pass, responses must be submitted on time and be complete. An assignment is "late" when it has not been submitted to the digital system in pdf format by 4 p.m. on the day it is due (see Syllabus for dates). An assignment is "incomplete" when 1 or more questions have not been answered. Late and incomplete assignments will be counted as a Fail. At this stage no grade will be assigned based on the quality of the response.*

At the end of the course, the total number of written assignments will be converted to a formula and a numerical value (out of 30) assigned. *Hand-written work will not be accepted.*

Discussion: Students will be selected in advance to lead the discussion. Everyone will be given minimal guidelines to follow, however, my hope is that you will be inspired to try out activities with your fellow students that you have found work for you. Absence on the day a student is to lead a discussion will count as a "fail". Refusal to lead a discussion will count as a "fail".

The textbook includes Exercises. You should read these and make sure that you understand how to respond. I may use the format of these Exercises in examinations. Since the answers are included at the end of the textbook, I will not use these Exercises as part of the Participation activities that I assign. But you could make use of them when you are asked to lead a Discussion by, e.g., altering an Exercise slightly and then questioning your fellow students on your version or leading the Discussion in some other way that you find useful.

GRADED EXERCISES are designed to permit you to work creatively with the content of lectures, in particular, the Conceptual Structure notation. By working "creatively", I mean that you are expected to show that you can make use of the constructs of the course to analyse novel data. By "analyse", I mean that you will have to organize and describe the data. You will not be able to do this by merely copying material in a rote fashion. You will have to think and you may have to do some original research.

TESTS are designed to ensure that you have grasped the informational content of the course (constructs and notation). This informational content will be drawn from both the textbook and the lectures. The mid-term will cover content from the first half of the course. The final examination will cover course content in the second half of the course.

*Each test will have the same format: a section of questions that everyone must answer + a section where you can choose which questions you want to answer. To pass the test and final examination, everyone must pass the obligatory section.*

**Summary of assignments, value, and due dates**

Activity	Value	Due date
(i) Participation in Tuesday discussions. Assigned activities + leading discussion	30%	C. every 2 weeks. See syllabus
(ii) Graded exercises	20% (10% each)	October 29 <sup>th</sup> November 26 <sup>th</sup>
(iii) Mid-term (readings & lectures)	25%	November 7 <sup>th</sup>
Final examination (readings & lectures)	25%	Registrar Scheduled

**Other important dates:**

**WS lectures begin: Monday September 9<sup>th</sup> 2013**

**Last day to drop full courses and fall half courses: September 20<sup>th</sup> 2013**

**Thanksgiving: Monday October 14<sup>th</sup> 2013 UC closed**

**Reading Week: November 9-12<sup>th</sup> No classes**

**FS lectures end: Friday December 6<sup>th</sup>**

**FT period for final examinations: December 9<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup>**

**Students who require accommodation to write mid-term tests or examinations must arrange this before the class starts or in the first week. See below. Do not delay!**

**Distribution of Grades:**

A+ = 95-100 = <i>outstanding</i> ;	A = 90-94 = excellent, superior;	A- = 85-89
B+ = 80-84;	B = 75-79 = clearly above	B- = 71-74
C+ = 67-70;	C = 62-66 = satisfactory;	C- = 58-61
D+ = 54-57;	D = 50-53 = minimal pass;	F < 50%

I = incomplete

This scale will be used not only for the final course grade but also to assign scores on exercises, the mid-term and the final examination.

**Absence from class and late work**

Written assignments are due on the dates indicated above and in the syllabus. Students who fail to show up for the mid-term test without an appropriate excuse (and documentation) will receive a failing grade and will not be permitted to do a re-write. Students who have appropriate documentation will be given 1 opportunity to re-write the mid-term test. Regulations concerning final examinations are determined by the Registrar's office. See [http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exam\\_info](http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exam_info). For a deferred examination, there is a counsellor/physician form to fill out.

**Documentation**

Documentation for the mid-term attesting to illness or incapacity must come from a reliable source (your family physician, a hospital physician, a counsellor treating you for stress, etc.) and must state the reasons you were unable to be present on the day the test was scheduled. Documentation for overdue written assignments must explicitly state (i) that you were unable to work due to a precise medical problem, and, (ii) that you were unable to work on the day the assignment was due *and a relevant period leading up to the due date*. In short, for the graded and ungraded written assignments, the assumption is that they require

sustained activity *prior* to the due date. Consequently, illness or indisposition on the due date itself should not prevent you from submitting your work on time.

Other problems (death in the family, pregnancy, other personal problems) which interfere with your ability to carry out your work should be brought to my attention *well before the deadline*. I am not interested in prying into your private affairs. Everyone has problems from time to time which interfere with work. The university expects you to find adult ways of coping. If you won't make a deadline, recognize it, admit it, and communicate!

In the absence of proper communication regarding such matters, I will invoke the academic equivalent of on-the-job penalties, namely,

- assigning an "F" (fail) grade for any work not submitted, and
- deducting one letter grade for each working day (Monday to Fridays) or part thereof that an assignment is late.

In other words, if you would normally get a "B" on a written assignment but submit it 3 days late, you will get a "C"; if you submit it 6 working days late, you will get a "D"; if you submit it 11 workdays late, you will get an "F".

### **Make-up test**

There will be one (1) make-up test for anyone who fails the mid-term or who was unable to take the test for medically documented or other valid reasons (with documentation). Students who miss the test for no good reason (meaning no documentation of a health problem from a doctor) will **not** be permitted to sit the make-up test. Planned vacations during regularly scheduled classes (even when accompanying parents) do not constitute a "good reason".

Anyone who writes the mid-term twice will have the final mark based on the following formula: first mid-term mark = 25% of total + second mid-term mark = 75% of total. E.g. if your score on the first mid-term = 40%, and your score on the re-write = 70%, your final score will =  $((40 \times .25) = 10) + ((70 \times .75) = 52.5) = 62.5\%$ . This is the score that will count towards 25% of your final grade.

### **Submitting written work**

*All written assignments* should be submitted digitally *in pdf format* to the Blackboard drop-box by 4:00 p.m. on the due date.

### **Organization of the course**

I will lecture on Thursdays. My lecture notes will be posted on Blackboard. Attendance on Thursdays is not obligatory but I warn you that my lecturing style is very spontaneous so there is plenty that goes on in class that will not appear in my lecture notes. On Tuesdays, there will be discussion of material from the textbook or that I distribute, or from the lecture the *previous* Thursday. *You should bring your textbook with you to class on Tuesdays*. The Tuesday sessions are designed to be informal and to prepare you for tests and assignments. The Tuesday sessions will also contribute to your participation grade so you are required to be present on the days when you will be leading the discussion.

### **Digital devices**

Cell phone activities, texting and playing computer games are not permitted during class. "Multi-tasking" is a euphemism for a "distracted mind". Your attention is requested. Students are not permitted to record lectures or to take pictures (digital or otherwise) in class.

## **GENERAL COURSE/UNIVERSITY INFORMATION FOR ALL STUDENTS**

### **LINGUISTICS STUDENT ADVISING**

For any questions regarding the undergraduate or graduate program in linguistics, the organization of your program, or the selection of courses, contact the appropriate advisor as follows:

Undergraduate Advisor	Dr Robert Murray	SS 824	<a href="mailto:lingadv@ucalgary.ca">lingadv@ucalgary.ca</a>
Graduate Program Director	Dr Susanne Carroll	SS 830	<a href="mailto:linggrad@ucalgary.ca">linggrad@ucalgary.ca</a>

### **FACULTY of ARTS PROGRAM ADVISING and STUDENT INFORMATION**

The Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (PIC) is the overall headquarters for undergraduate programs in the Faculty of Arts. The key objective of this office is to connect students with whatever academic assistance that they require. The PIC is located in the Social Sciences Building (SS 102), please contact them by phone 220-3580, or email [artsads@ucalgary.ca](mailto:artsads@ucalgary.ca), or visit the website <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate>.

For program planning and advice, contact the Student Success Centre (SSC). Degree advisors assist undergraduate students in planning their overall degree programs along with providing broad educational planning, learning support, assistance with academic difficulties, academic program guidance, writing support, success seminars and peer support. The SSC is on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library, you can contact them at 220-5881, by email [success@ucalgary.ca](mailto:success@ucalgary.ca), or visit their website <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/>.

For registration issues, contact Enrolment Services who will also be able to help you with questions about fee payments, awards, financial aid, admissions questions, visiting and exchange students, open studies, transcripts, deferred exams. Enrolment Services are in the MacKimmie Library Block, Room 117, or you can contact them at 403-210-ROCK [7625] or visit their website <http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/>.

### **ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION**

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodation. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation, and have not registered with **Student Accessibility Services** (formerly the Disability Resource Centre), please contact their office at 403-220-8237. Students who have not registered with **Student Accessibility Services** are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. **You are required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of this course.**

### **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PRIVACY ACT (FOIP)**

The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act was enacted by the Alberta Legislature on June 1, 1994. The Act is intended first of all to allow any person the right of access to the records in the custody and under the control of a public body although this right is subject to limited and specific exceptions. The Act also includes a strong right to privacy component, allowing individuals to control the manner in which a public body collects personal information, to control the use that a public body may make of the information, and to control the disclosure of that information by a public body. It also allows individuals the right of access to personal information about themselves held by a public body and the right to request corrections to that information.

For more information on FOIP, visit the website <http://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/foip/>, or contact Jo-Anne Munn Gafuik at 403-220-3602 or by email [munnhafu@ucalgary.ca](mailto:munnhafu@ucalgary.ca)

## **PLAGIARISM AND ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT**

Plagiarism involves submitting or presenting work in a course as if it were the student's own work done expressly for that particular course, when, in fact, it is not. Most commonly plagiarism exists when:

1. the work submitted or presented was done, in whole or in part, by an individual other than the one submitting or presenting the work (this includes having another impersonate the student or otherwise substituting the work of another for one's own in an examination or test);
2. parts of the work are taken from another source without reference to the original author,;
3. the whole work (e.g. an essay) is copied from another source; and/or
4. a student submits or presents work in one course which has also been submitted in another course (although it may be completely original with that student) without the knowledge of or prior agreement of the instructor involved.

While it is recognized that scholarly work often involves reference to the ideas, data and conclusions of other scholars, intellectual honesty requires that such references be explicitly and clearly noted. Students are often encouraged to work together in preparing homework assignments, but check with your instructor beforehand. However, unless noted otherwise in writing, students must write up their own answers for submission of the assignment. Failure to do so constitutes plagiarism.

Plagiarism is an extremely serious academic offence. Possible penalties for plagiarism include: failing the assignment, failing the course, disciplinary probation, suspension, or expulsion. Any student who voluntarily and consciously aids another student in the commission of plagiarism is also guilty of academic misconduct.

For more information on academic misconduct and related UofC regulations please consult the Student Misconduct pages in the on-line University Calendar at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>.

## **EMERGENCY EVACUATION AND ASSEMBLY POINTS**

The University of Calgary is committed to creating a safe and healthy living and learning environment. The health and safety of our employees, students and the general public are the highest priority of the University of Calgary's Emergency Management Program. During times of emergency, Assembly Points have been identified across campus. These areas have been selected as they are large enough to hold a significant number of people and will provide an evacuated population access to washroom facilities and protection from the elements. Assembly points are also designed to establish a location for information updates:

- from the emergency responders to the evacuees; and
- from the evacuated population to the emergency responders.

Please familiarize yourself with the following:

Emergency Assembly Points: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>  
Emergency Instructions: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/node/28>

## **SAFEWALK INFORMATION**

Twenty four hours a day and seven days a week, Safewalk volunteers walk people safely to their destination on campus. This service is free and available to students, staff and campus visitors. Requesting Safewalk volunteers to walk with you is easy:

- Call 403-220-5333 (24 hours a day/seven days a week, 365 days a year)
- Use the Help Phones (they are not just for emergencies)

- Approach an on-duty Safewalker and request a walk

For more information, contact the Safewalk main office by phone at 403-220-4750, by email at [safewalk@ucalgary.ca](mailto:safewalk@ucalgary.ca), or you can visit their website at: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/safewalk>.

### **STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE INFORMATION**

The Students' Union and the Graduate Students' Association (GSA) in partnership with the University of Calgary offers students a key advocacy resource to assist in addressing concerns and issues they encounter at the University with the Student Ombuds Office.

Students in an undergraduate programs contact the Student's Union in the MacEwan Student Centre, Room MSC 251, by phone at 403-220-6551, by email at [arts1@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts1@su.ucalgary.ca), or you can visit their website at: <http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/>.

Students in a graduate program, contact the GSA in the MacKimmie Library Tower, MLT 214, by phone at 403-220-5997, by email [ask@gsa.ucalgary.ca](mailto:ask@gsa.ucalgary.ca), or visit their website: <http://gsa.ucalgary.ca/>.

The Student Ombuds Office offers a safe place for undergraduate and graduate students of the University of Calgary to discuss student related issues, interpersonal conflict, academic and non-academic concerns, and many other problems. The office is in the Admin. Building, Room A166, or you can contact them at 220-6420, by email [ombuds@ucalgary.ca](mailto:ombuds@ucalgary.ca), or visit the website <http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds>.

*Updated: July 24, 2013 (FP)*