



Faculty of Arts
School of Languages, Linguistics, Literatures and Cultures

LING 319
Introduction to Semantics
Fall 2021
Tuesday/Thursday 12:30 – 13:45 in person

COURSE OUTLINE

INSTRUCTOR'S NAME: Dimitrios Skordos

OFFICE HOURS: appointment for Zoom meeting via email

E-MAIL: dimitrios.skordos@ucalgary.ca I will respond to messages within 48hours on weekdays

TELEPHONE NUMBER: (403) 220-6396

DESCRIPTION

How do we make sense of words, phrases and sentences in language? How is it possible that the meaning of a sentence rarely equals the sum of the words included in it? Does natural language have formal logical components? What do we know about how language meaning might interact with other cognitive systems, or paralinguistic and extralinguistic aspects of our environment? This course introduces us to the study of meaning in natural language.

OBJECTIVES

We will explore theoretical issues and approaches regarding natural language semantics and cover the major extant theories of semantics including componential theory, formal semantics, and cognitive semantics. In addition, we will try to address the semantics/pragmatics interface. When possible, we will try to connect these with experimental evidence coming from the field of psycholinguistics including language acquisition and processing.

OUTCOMES

Students will acquire a good understanding of basic terminology and theoretical concepts and approaches in semantics. Through practice with appropriate problem sets and exercises, they will be able to apply this knowledge to basic questions about meaning in natural language.

REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS

Saeed, I. John. 2015. Semantics. 4th edition. Wiley Blackwell.

RECOMMENDED COURSE MATERIALS

N/A

COURSE NOTES

All course activities will be in class and necessarily synchronous with the exception of assessments which are online, asynchronous and detailed below.

Class discussion and practice will be an essential part of the course, therefore you are required to complete all readings before coming to class. Attendance, while not mandatory, is very strongly encouraged. Class discussion being an integral part of the course, it will prove difficult for people to keep up



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and do well if they do not attend. Neither the instructor nor the TA(s) will be responsible to share materials or class notes with students who miss class, outside of what will be routinely shared on D2L.

Any accommodation for late assignments will only be considered in cases where unavoidable circumstances of sufficient gravity played an important role. Please see D2L for an exhaustive list of class policies and expectations.

ASSESSMENT

- Homework Assignments: 40% (4 x 10% each)
- Midterm Exam: 30% October 29th due date
- Final Exam: 30% December 15th due date

All assessments contribute to successfully pass the course. Assessment is going to take place online through D2L and is going to be asynchronous. That is, the assessment materials (including exams) will be made available to the students ahead of time and the students will have deadlines by which to submit their responses. Students will be able to work on those on their own time (i.e., over several days or a week) and will not have timed assessments or examinations. Allowed aids include the textbook, lecture slides, and course notes. Due dates for the Midterm and Final exam will be finalized after consultation with the class but are tentatively set as seen above.

GRADING SCALE

A+ = 100-97; A = 93-96; A- = 92-88; B+ = 87-83; B = 82-78; B- = 77-73; C+ = 72-68; C = 67-63; C- = 62-58; D+ = 57-53; D = 52-50; F = 49%

INTEGRITY AND CONDUCT

All members of the University community have a responsibility to familiarize themselves with the Statement on Principles of Conduct, and to comply with the University of Calgary Code of Conduct and Non-Academic Misconduct policy and procedures (available at: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>).

Academic misconduct

Academic Misconduct refers to student behavior which compromises proper assessment of a student's academic activities and includes: cheating; fabrication; falsification; plagiarism; unauthorized assistance; failure to comply with an instructor's expectations regarding conduct required of students completing academic assessments in their courses; and failure to comply with exam regulations applied by the Registrar.

For information on the Student Academic Misconduct Policy and Procedure please visit: <https://ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-academic-misconduct-policy.pdf>, and <https://ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-academic-misconduct-procedure.pdf>

Additional information is available on the Academic Integrity Website at <https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success/learning/academic-integrity>

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND COPYRIGHT LEGISLATION

Course materials created by instructors (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the instructor. These materials may not be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the instructor. All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright.pdf>) and requirements of the Copyright Act (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorised sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PRIVACY (FOIP) ACT



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Graded assignments will be retained by the Department for three months and subsequently sent for confidential shredding. Final examinations will be kept for one calendar year and subsequently sent for confidential shredding. Said material is exclusively available to the student and to the department staff requiring to examine it. Please see <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/foip> for complete information on the disclosure of personal records.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations according to the University policies and procedures listed below. The student accommodation policy can be found at: <https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/access/prospective-students/academic-accommodations>.

Students needing an Accommodation because of a Disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/procedure-for-accommodations-for-students-with-disabilities.pdf>.)

Students needing an Accommodation in relation to their coursework or to fulfil requirements for a graduate degree, based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to their Instructor or the Department Head/Dean or to the designated contact person in their Faculty.

FACULTY OF ARTS PROGRAM ADVISING AND STUDENT INFORMATION RESOURCES

Have a question, but not sure where to start?

The Arts Students' Centre 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 they may require.

In addition to housing the Associate Dean (Undergraduate Programs and Student Affairs) and the Associate Dean (Teaching, Learning & Student Engagement), the Arts Students' Centre is the specific home to:

- Program advising
- Co-op Education Program
- Arts and Science Honours Academy
- Student Help Desk

Location: Social Sciences Room 102

Phone: 403-220-3580

Email: ascarts@ucalgary.ca

Website: arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate.

For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at 403-210-ROCK [7625] or visit them at the MacKimmie Block.

Contacts for the Students' Union Representative for the Faculty of Arts: arts1@su.ucalgary.ca, arts2@su.ucalgary.ca, arts3@su.ucalgary.ca, arts4@su.ucalgary.ca.

INTERNET AND ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION DEVICES

Devices such as laptops, palmtops and smartbooks are allowed provided that they are used exclusively for instructional purposes and do not cause disruption to the instructor and to fellow students. Cellular telephones, blackberries and other mobile communication tools are not permitted and must be switched off.

SUPPORT AND RESOURCES

Links to information that is not course-specific related to student wellness and safety resources can be found on the Office of the Registrar's website: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines>.