



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

LING 319
INTRODUCTION TO SEMANTICS
Winter 2017:
Lectures: **T/R 12:30-13:45** (75 minutes)
Location: **ST132**

COURSE OUTLINE

INSTRUCTOR'S NAME: Susanne E. Carroll

OFFICE LOCATION: CHD507 **OFFICE HOURS:** FRIDAYS 13:00-14:00

TELEPHONE NUMBER: 403-220-5492

E-Mail: susanne.carroll@ucalgary.ca

UNDERGRADUATE ADVISOR: Dr. Dennis Storoshenko **E-Mail :** lingadv@ucalgary.ca

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 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. One goal is to provide you with a suitable foundation for understanding talk of "meaning" in other courses in linguistics, psychology, philosophy and/or anthropology.

We will start with some basic ideas as to what 'meanings' do, in particular relating linguistic expressions to entities in the mind-external physical world via **reference** and **referential speech acts**. We will then differentiate **reference** and **sense** via procedures for determining which members belong to a category (extensional vs. intensional definition). We will then discuss the way 'truth values' (true/false) are used to define the reference of sentences and their semantic correspondent (**propositions**).

We will move from these basic notions which come to semantics from logic to a consideration of other types of meaning: **ontological categories** (THING, STATE, EVENT, PLACE, ...); and **semantic roles**. Throughout, we will also look at some central questions of natural language semantics: How do meaning and grammar relate to each other? In particular: How are meanings 'structured' by grammar? To do this, we will examine the 'logical 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 then return to the topic of reference yet again to examine subtypes of NPs and what they do semantically (proper names, deixis, generics, specific vs. non-specific reference). We will end the course by looking at some expressions that are neither referential nor predicatives (semantic **operators** like negation and quantification).



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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.

TARGETTED 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.

OBJECTIVES

To provide students with an overview of basic notions of meaning, seen from both a linguistic and psychological perspective.

OUTCOMES

Students will be able to define critical constructs and associate them with linguistic examples. They will be able to read and draw correctly predicate-argument structures that illustrate semantic scope. They will be able to correctly analyse sentences for the the ontological categories of phrases and sentences (THING, PERSON, STATE, EVENT, ACTION, PLACE, PATH, ...), the semantic field of the main verb (MOTION, LOCATION, TIME, CAUSATION), and the semantic roles played by grammatical functions (AGENT, ACTOR, EXPERIENCER, THEME, ...). Students will be able to differentiate different types of noun phrases wrt reference (proper names, class names, generics, quantified NPs). They will have an idea of some important figures in the field (Frege, Russell, Montague, Davidson, Jackendoff).

DISTRIBUTION OF GRADES

Ungraded Q/A from readings	15% due c. every week.
3 graded written assignments	45% due January 29 th , March 26 th , April 12 th
Mid-term examination	20% February 14 th
Final examination	Registrar-scheduled

GRADING SCALE

I use the scale in the University of Calgary calendar on all assignments and examinations. See section F.2 of the Calendar. <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/f-2.html>

REQUIRED TEXTS

Riemer, Nick. 2010. *Introducing semantics*. Cambridge Introductions to Language and Linguistics series. Cambridge, U.K: Cambridge University Press.

RECOMMENDED TEXTS AND MATERIALS

See D2L



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ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

1. **Plagiarism** is a serious offence, the penalty for which is an F on the assignment and possibly also an F in the course, academic probation, or requirement to withdraw. Plagiarism exists when:

- a) 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);
- b) parts of the work are taken from another source without reference to the original author;
- c) the whole work (e.g., an essay) is copied from another source, and/or
- d) 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." Plagiarism occurs not only when direct quotations are taken from a source without specific acknowledgement but also when original ideas or data from the source are not acknowledged. A bibliography is insufficient to establish which portions of the student's work are taken from external sources; footnotes or other recognized forms of citation must be used for this purpose.

2. **Cheating** at tests or examinations includes but is not limited to dishonest or attempted dishonest conduct such as speaking to other candidates or communicating with them under any circumstances whatsoever; bringing into the examination room any textbook, notebook, memorandum, other written material or mechanical or electronic device not authorized by the examiner; writing an examination or part of it, or consulting any person or materials outside the confines of the examination room without permission to do so, or leaving answer papers exposed to view, or persistent attempts to read other students' examination papers.

3. **Other academic misconduct** includes, but is not limited to, tampering or attempts to tamper with examination scripts, class work, grades and/or class records; failure to abide by directions by an instructor regarding the individuality of work handed in; the acquisition, attempted acquisition, possession, and/or distribution of examination materials or information not authorized by the instructor; the impersonation of another student in an examination or other class assignment; the falsification or fabrication of clinical or laboratory reports; the non-authorized tape recording of lectures.

4. Any student who voluntarily and consciously aids another student in the commission of one of these offences is also guilty of academic misconduct.

DISABILITIES AND ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations. Students with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre should contact their office at 220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. Students also required to discuss their needs with the instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of this course.

EMERGENCY EVACUATION ASSEMBLY POINTS

Craigie Hall: Professional Faculties food court (alternate: Education Block food court)
Education Block and Tower: Scurfield Hall atrium (alternate: Professional Faculties food court)
Kinesiology: north courtyard, MacEwan Student Centre (alternate: University Theatres lobby)
For the complete list of assembly points please consult
<http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>

FACULTY OF ARTS PROGRAM ADVISING AND STUDENT INFORMATION RESOURCES

- Have a question, but not sure where to start? The new Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (PIC) is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS110, call us at 403-220-3580 or email us at artsads@ucalgary.ca. You can also visit the Faculty of Arts



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website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate> which has detailed information on common academic concerns.

- For program planning and advice, contact the Student Success Centre (formerly the Undergraduate programs Office) at (403) 220-5881 or visit them in their new space on the 3rd Floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library.
- 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 Library Block.

Contact for Students Union Representatives for the Faculty of Arts:

arts1@su.ucalgary.ca, arts2@su.ucalgary.ca, arts3@su.ucalgary.ca, arts4@su.ucalgary.ca

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PRIVACY (FOIP) ACT

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 <http://www.ucalgary.ca/secretariat/privacy> for complete information on the disclosure of personal records.

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.

SAFEWALK

To request a Safewalk escort anywhere on campus, 24 hours a day and seven days a week, please call 403-220-5333 or use one of the Help Phones.

Web: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/safewalk>

STUDENT UNION INFORMATION

Representatives and contact details: <http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/home/contact.html>

Student Ombudsman: <http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/services/student-services/student-rights.html>

WRITING ACROSS THE CURRICULUM

Writing skills should cross all disciplines. Students are expected to do a substantial amount of writing in their courses and, where appropriate, instructors can and should use writing and the grading thereof as a factor in the evaluation of student work. The services provided by the Writing Centre in the Effective Writing Office (<http://www.efwr.ucalgary.ca/>) can be utilized by all undergraduate and graduate students who feel they require further assistance.