



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

LING 377
Introduction to Pragmatics
Winter 2023
TR 12:30 - 13:45 PF 114

COURSE OUTLINE

INSTRUCTOR'S NAME: Dimitrios Skordos

OFFICE HOURS: by appt; please email

E-MAIL: dimitrios.skordos@ucalgary.ca I will try to respond to e-mails within 48 hrs during weekdays

TELEPHONE NUMBER: N/A

DESCRIPTION

"Are you joining us tonight?" "I have an exam at 8:00 am tomorrow..." If a friend responded like this to our invitation to go out, most of us would understand that they are not joining us tonight. But why? After all, they never said no explicitly. Pragmatics is the field of linguistics that studies language meaning and communication beyond what is linguistically encoded in an utterance. It includes speech acts, inferences, metaphor, irony and everything in-between. It is the study of language and communication in use.

OBJECTIVES and OUTCOMES

Students will familiarize themselves with relevant background, including theories, frameworks, and major debates in pragmatics. They will synthesize ideas and background information to hold informed discussions on the predictions and implications of pragmatic theories as well as the evidence necessary to support one over the other. By the end of the course, students should be able to distinguish between linguistically encoded meaning and pragmatic enrichments, as well as different kinds of pragmatically enriched meaning. They will also be able to apply the necessary theoretical tools for the analysis of various pragmatic enrichments.

REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS

Birner, B. (2012). Introduction to Pragmatics. Wiley - Blackwell. (available at the University Bookstore and online)

Any additional required materials will be posted on D2L.

COURSE NOTES

The course is taught in person. Every week, students are asked to engage in the following activities: (1) do the relevant readings and (2) attend the in-person lectures. Roughly every two weeks, there will be a HW assignment on the material we have covered.

Students who cannot attend the lectures will need to take notes from their classmates. The lectures will not be recorded. Attendance is not required, but it is highly encouraged. Students' performance on assignments is typically negatively impacted by no/minimal attendance.

Course work is administered through D2L, is not timed and is always open-book. Requests for an extension in advance of the deadline will be considered and if approved, will incur no penalties. Late submissions without advance notice, will incur a 10% deduction per day late.



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ASSESSMENT

5 Assignments	x 10 points	= 50
10 Discussion Questions	X 1 point	= 10
1 Final Assignment	x 50 points	= 40

Assignments: Students may have to complete multiple choice and brief essay questions on the material we have covered. The assignments are designed to help them review their knowledge and understanding, think critically and apply the theoretical tools we examine in class to linguistic/communicative material in order to analyze it from the perspective of pragmatics. **Assignments must be submitted through D2L by 11:59 pm the day they are due.** The HW due dates are tentative and subject to change to a later date (you will be notified of any revisions to the due dates on D2L, via email, and in class). Unexcused late submissions without advance notice, will incur a 10% deduction per day late.

Discussion board entries: Students will have to briefly answer discussion questions on the Discussion Forum on D2L. The posts are due **by 11:59 pm the day they are due.** Students will be assessed on their participation. Unexcused late submissions without advance notice will not be accepted.

Final Assignment/Exam: The final assignment/exam will be similar to the assignments, but cumulative, covering the entire semester. It will be due **at 11:59 on April 12, 2021.** Unexcused late submissions without advance notice will not be accepted.

No extra credit options.

GRADING SCALE

Criteria for Letter Grades

A+ grade: *Exceptional Performance.* An A+ grade indicates near perfect performance on multiple choice and short answer exams. For research papers/essays/course projects/presentations, an A+ grade is awarded for exceptional work deserving of special recognition and is therefore not a common grade.

A, A- Range: *Excellent Performance.* Superior understanding of course material. Written work is very strong in terms of critical and original thinking, content, organization, and the expression of ideas, and demonstrates student's thorough knowledge of subject matter.

B Range: *Good Performance.* Above average understanding of course material. Written work shows evidence of critical thinking and attention to organization and editing but could be improved in form and/or content.

C Range: *Satisfactory Performance.* Adequate understanding of course material. Knowledge of basic concepts and terminology is demonstrated. Written work is satisfactory and meets essential requirements but could be improved significantly in form and content. Note: All prerequisites for courses offered by the Faculty of Arts must be met with a minimum grade of C-.

D range: *Marginally meets standards.* Minimal understanding of subject matter. Written work is marginally acceptable and meets basic requirements but requires substantial improvements in form and content. Student has not mastered course material at a level sufficient for advancement into more senior courses in the same or related subjects.

F grade: *Course standards not met.* Inadequate understanding of subject matter. Written work does not meet basic requirements. Student has not demonstrated knowledge of course material at a level sufficient



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for course credit.

Grading Scale

A+	97-100%	B+	83-87%	C+	68-72%	D+	53-57%
A	93-96%	B	78-82%	C	63-67%	D	50-52%
A-	88-92%	B-	73-77%	C-	58-62%	F	0-49%

To determine final letter grades, final percentage grades will be rounded up or down to the nearest whole percentage (e.g., 87.5% will be rounded up to 88% = A-, but 87.4% will be rounded down to 87% = B+).

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 behaviour 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://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/student-academic-misconduct-policy>

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/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/acceptable-use-material-protected-copyright-policy>) 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

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/legal-services/access-information-privacy> 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



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with Disabilities:

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/student-accommodation-policy>

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: <https://arts.ucalgary.ca/current-students/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 Tower.

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 and tablets 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>.