

FORMAL SEMANTICS/SEMANTICS II
LIN 4850- 0002/ LIN 6856-0003
Spring 2020

Instructor: Galia Hatav
Time: MWF 5th period (11:45-12:35)
Place: Matherly 0115
Office hours: MWF 6th period (12:50-1:40); or by appointment
Office: Tur 4129
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Course website on E-Learning in Canvas: <http://elearning.ufl.edu>

Textbooks: (Available at the Reitz Union bookstore, Tel. 392-0194.)

1. Heim, Irene & Angelika Kratzer. 1998. *Semantics in Generative Grammar*. Malden, Mass. & Oxford, UK: Blackwell Publishers. (H&K)
2. Elbourne, Paul. 2011. *Meaning*. Oxford & New York: Oxford University Press.

Course Description and Objectives

This course is an introduction to doing formal semantics for linguists, based on the theory of Richard Montague and theories developed within his approach. We will work on the technical "craft", as Heim & Kratzer put it, of doing formal semantics, and in some parallel fashion, on the philosophy that underlies it.

The goal is for students to acquire the main ideas and techniques of Type-Theory and Lambda-notation, and be acquainted with more specific topics, as many as time permits.

Pre-requirements: LIN4803/LIN6804 offered at UF, or an equivalent

In particular, it is assumed that students have already had a basic introduction to first order logic, set theory, the distinction of semantics vs. pragmatics and (Generative) syntax.

Course requirements and grading:

Undergraduates

*Homework	7 x 2% = 14%
*Two take-home tests	2 x 25% = 50%
*Reaction Papers:	10 x 2% = 20%
*Chapter Presentation:	1 x 16% = 16%

Graduates

*Homework	7 x 2% = 14%
*Two take-home tests	2 x 25% = 50%
*Reaction Papers	10 x 2% = 20%
*Chapter Presentation:	1 x 6% = 6%
*Term paper	1 x 10% = 10%

- *Homework*

Homework is not graded but only given pass/fail check. In order to pass, each assignment must be completed and its lowest grade should be a D, i.e., at least 60% of the assignment should be good.

Homework will not be accepted after due date.

- *Exams*

There will be two take-home exams

Each test will be given two days before it is due.

Test 1 will be given to you on Wednesday, Feb 19, and is due Friday, Feb 21;

Test 2 will be given to you on Monday, April 20, and is due Wednesday, April 22.

- *Reaction Papers*

A 'reaction paper' is only required on some of the assignment readings and must be submitted on due time. **I will not grade late papers without a documented excuse.**

The point of a reaction paper is to *react*, i.e. evaluate, criticize, support, or merely raise questions about the assigned readings.

Reaction papers are to be at least one full page in length (but not more than two); typed (font size 12, double space) and printed out neatly. They will not be assigned a letter grade, but only a pass/fail check.

- *Article Presentation*

You are required to choose **one** of the reading assignments and present it in class (15-20 minutes, including questions and discussion).

The chosen chapter must be presented the week the reaction paper on that chapter is due (Wednesday or Friday). This way the other students will be familiar with the content of your presentation, so they will be able to participate in the discussion more efficiently.

- *Term paper*

A term paper is a conference-style paper, to be presented in class weeks 14, 15.

The paper (10+ pages) and oral presentation (10-15 minutes, plus questions) will constitute 10% of the final grade (of graduate students). **Topics must be approved by week 13.** All papers due by April 20.

- *Attendance and participation.*

Attendance and participation are essential. Each student will be allowed 3 absences without penalty. After that, one point will be deducted from the final grade for every non-excused absence. Showing up later or leaving earlier is considered 1/2 absences.

Cell Phone Policy: Cell phones should be switched off for class. If you need it on for a specific class (because of a family medical emergency, for example) please notify me before class and sit near the door.

The course grading scale is below. Further information about UF's grading policies can be found at:

<http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/regulationgrades.html>

A: 91-100	A-: 87-90.9	B+: 84-86.9	B: 80-83.9	B-: 77-79.9
C+: 74-76.9	C: 70-73.9	C-: 67-69.9	D+: 64-66.9	D: 60-63.9
D-: 57-59.9	E: 56.9 or below			

Other Information:

Honor Code: <http://www.chem.ufl.edu/~jtl/honor.html>

Disabilities: <http://www.chem.ufl.edu/~jtl/disabilities.html>

Counseling: <http://www.chem.ufl.edu/~jtl/counseling.html>

Weekly Schedule (subject to changes according to class progress and interest):

Week 1. Jan 6, 8, 10

Read H&K Ch. 1; Optional: C&M-G Appendix on p. 529

- Discuss syllabus.

- Review: Sets and functions

Week 2. Jan 13, 15, 17

- Denotation: Extension and Intension;

- Extension of proper names, sentences, and verbs;

Reaction paper #1 (due W) on Elbourne Ch. 1

Week 3. Jan 22, 24 (Note: Jan 20 is MLK Day – no classes)

Reaction paper # 2 (due W): Elbourne Ch. 2

HW #1 (posted online): Due F

- Extension and phrase structures.

Week 4. Jan 27, 29, 31

Reaction paper # 3 (due W): Elbourne Ch. 3

Read H&K § 2.2-2.4; Optional: C&M-G § 3.2.4 pp. 87-99; Dowty *et al* Chapter 4 § I-II; and Partee *et al* § 13.2.1.

- Denotation of 1-place and 2-place predicates;

- Semantic types.

Week 5. Feb 3, 5, 7

Reaction paper # 4 (due W): Elbourne Ch. 4 and H&K pp. 1-3

Read H & K § 2.5; Optional: C&M-G Ch. 7; Dowty *et al* Ch. 4 § III; McCawley § 13.1; Gamut § 4.4; and Partee *et al* § 13.2.2.

- Semantic types (cont.);
- Lambda operator.

Week 6. Feb 3, 5, 7

HW #2 (posted online): Due F

- Lambda operator (cont.)

Week 7. Feb 10, 12, 14

Read H & K, Ch. 3.

- Semantically vacuous words;
- Nonverbal predicates; Predicates as restrictive modifiers.

Reaction paper # 5 (due W): Elbourne Ch. 5

HW #3 (posted online): Due F

Week 8. Feb 17, 19, 21

Reaction paper # 6 (due W): Elbourne Ch. 6

Predicates as restrictive modifiers (cont.)

Submitting Take-home Test #1 (F)

Week 9. Feb 24, 26, 28

Reaction Paper #7 (Due W): Elbourne Ch. 7

- Some digression: PTQ (M)
- Optional Reading: Gamut Ch. 4.

Week 10. March 2, 4, 6: Spring Break – no classes

Week 11. March 16, 18, 20

Reaction Paper #8: Elbourne Ch. 8 (Due W)

The definite article

Read: H&K section 4.4

Week 12. March 23, 25, 27

Relative Clauses

Read: H&K Ch. 5, §5.1-§5.2.1, pp. 86-92

Reaction Paper #9 on H&K pp. 61-73 (W)

HW #4 (posted online): Due F

Week 13. March 30, April 1, 3

Relative Clauses (cont.)

Read: H&K Ch. 5, §5.2.2-§5.2.3, pp. 92-98

HW # 5 (posted online): Due F

Week 14. April 6, 10 (Note: April 8 is Passover Eve – class cancelled)

- Multiple variables
 - **Read: H&K** Ch. 5, §5.3, pp. 106-112
- Reaction Paper #10: Elbourne Ch. 9** (Due W)

HW # 6 (posted online): Due F

Student's presentation

Week 15. April 13, 15, 17

-Variable Binding.

Read: H&K Ch. 5, §5.4, pp. 115-118

HW # 7 (posted online): Due F

- Students' presentation

Week 16. April 20, 22

- Review/Student's presentation (M)
- **Submitting: Take-home Test #2 (W)**

Complementary Reading

- Allwood, Jens, L-G Andersson, & Ö. Dahl. 1971. *Logic in Linguistics*. Cambridge: CUP.
- Chierchia, Gennaro & Sally McConnell-Ginet. 2000, second edition. *An Introduction to Semantics*. Cambridge, Mass. & London, England: The MIT Press. (C&M-G)
- Dowty, David R., Robert E. Wall, & Stanley Peters. 1981. *Introduction to Montague Semantics*. Dordrecht, Boston, Lancaster & Tokyo: D. Reidel Publishing Company.
- Gamut, L. T. F. 1991. *Logic, Language, and Meaning; Vol. II: Intensional Logic and Logical Grammar*. Chicago & London: The University of Chicago Press.
- McCawley, James D. 1993 [1981]. *Everything that Linguists have Always Wanted to Know about Logic, but were ashamed to ask*. Oxford: Basil Blackwell.
- Montague, Richard. 1970. "Universal Grammar". *Theoria* 36. Reprinted in Montague 1974.
- _____. 1973. "The proper treatment of quantification in ordinary English." Generally referred to as PTQ. In J. Hintikka, j. Moravcsik, and P. Suppes, eds., *Approaches to Natural Language*. Dordrecht: Reidel. Reprinted in Montague 1974.
- _____. 1974. *Formal Philosophy: Selected Papers of Richard Montague, Edited and with an Introduction by Richmond H. Thomason*. New Haven: Yale University Press.
- Partee, Barbara Hall. 1979. "Semantics - mathematics or psychology?", in *Semantics from Different Points of View*, R. Bäurle et al . (eds.), Berlin, Springer, 1-14.
- Partee, Barbara H., Alice ter Meulen & Robert E. Wall. 1993. *Mathematical Methods in Linguistics*. Dordrecht, Boston & London: Kluwer Academic Publishers.