

LING 319: INTRODUCTION TO SEMANTICS

Days and Time	TR 14:00-15:15
Room	PF 120
Instructor	Professor S.E. Carroll
Office	SS 830
Telephone	403-220-5492
Email	carrolls@ucalgary.ca
Office Hours	Fridays 14:00 to 15:00 or by appointment (availability for appointments is restricted to specific days and time periods. See Blackboard under “Course documents”
Instructor’s web page	http://ling.ucalgary.ca/profiles/susanne-carroll
Undergraduate Student Advisor	Professor Robert Murray, SS 824, 403-220-8109, lingadv@ucalgary.ca
Graduate Teaching Assistant	Ms. Jeong-Eun Lee
GAT’s office location & office hours	SS 808 / Wednesdays from 14:00 – 15:00
GAT’ telephone	403- 210-6534

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. 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 Linguistics majors. Other students with an interest in meaning, and 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 LING 301 (*English Syntax*) is highly recommended.

Course schedule

See syllabus posted in Blackboard file folder “Course information”.

Textbook

Kearns, Kate. 2000. *Semantics*. New York: Palgrave-Macmillan.
Saeed, John I. 2009. *Semantics* 3rd. Edn. Malden, Ma: Wiley-Blackwell.

These textbooks have been ordered and should be available for purchase at the UC bookstore.

Assignments

There will be three distinct types of assignments

- Participation in discussions on Tuesdays. The discussion will turn on questions in the textbook and the content of lectures from the previous Thursday. You will write up your answers to these questions and submit them *on Tuesdays*. Participation will be measured in part by your willingness to answer questions in-class and partly from assignments from the textbook (pass/fail).
- 4 Exercises (individual work; graded).
- Mid-term test on lectures and textbook readings content (graded)
- Final examination (graded)

Please note: The pass/fail exercises are designed to prepare you for the graded exercises. You will practice in the pass/fail format interpreting questions, carrying out analyses, and using semantic notation. The graded exercises are designed to show that you have acquired the semantic notation and can use it creatively on example sentences that you have not seen before. In short, I expect you to do more than just memorize the textbook examples and reproduce what you have been told. The graded exercises will prepare you for the mid-term test and final examination. 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.

N.B. The mid-term test and the final examination will consist of two parts: 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. Questions from textbook	10%	Weekly and/or bi-monthly - January to April
(ii) Graded exercises	40% (10% each)	January February March April
(iii) Mid-term (readings & lectures)	25%	February
(iv) Final examination (readings & lectures)	25%	Registrar Scheduled

Other important dates:

WS lectures begin: Tuesday January 8th 2013

Reading Week: Feb. 17-24th No classes

Good Friday: March 29th No classes

WS lectures end: Tuesday April 16th

WT period for final examinations: April 19th -30th

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 average;	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 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. 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 them. Regulations concerning final examinations are determined by the Registrar's office. See 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*.

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 a 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". Regulations concerning final examinations are determined by

the Registrar's office. See http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exam_info. For a deferred examination, there is a counsellor/physician form to fill out.

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 30% of your final grade.

Submitting written work

All written assignments should be submitted digitally 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.

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	lingadv@ucalgary.ca
Graduate Program Director	Dr Susanne Carroll	SS 830	linggrad@ucalgary.ca

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, 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 3rd Floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library, you can contact them at 220-5881, by email 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 the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 403-220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. **You are also 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 munngafu@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, 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, or you can visit their website at: <http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/>.

Students in a graduate program, contact the GSA at 403-220-5997, by email ask@gsa.ucalgary.ca, or visit the website: <http://gsa.ucalgary.ca/>. The GSA will be moving their offices in 2013, please contact them for their current location.

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, or you can visit their website at: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds>.