16:615:532:01 SEMANTICS III:
CROSS-LINGUISTIC DYNAMICS

Syllabus
(Sep. 15, 2010)

LECTURES
M, Th 11:30 am – 12:50 pm, in SEM-108

INSTRUCTOR
Professor Maria Bittner
email: mbittner@rci.rutgers.edu
office: SEM-203A
office hour: M 9:30 – 10:30 am in SEM-203A (by appointment only)

PREREQUISITE
16:615:531 Semantics II, or permission of the instructor

COURSE DESCRIPTION & GOALS
In this course the directly compositional dynamic theory developed for a fragment of English
with nominal discourse reference in 16:615:531 Semantics II will be extended to other types of
languages (e.g. Kalaallisut, Mandarin Chinese, Cheyenne) and other semantic domains (worlds,
degrees, events, states, and times).

By the end of this course students will be expected to be able to read technical literature on
cross-linguistic dynamic semantics and to write a theoretically-informed research paper suited
for presentation at a major conference on semantics.

COURSE WEBPAGES
• Lecture notes can be downloaded from the instructor’s webpage (http://www.rci.rutgers.edu/~mbittner). They will be made available under “Teaching” as the course progresses
• Course participants will also have access to the website “16:615:532 Sem3 F10” on Sakai.
  - To download readings click on “Resources”
  - To submit a squib, click on “Assignments”.

READINGS. The readings to be made available under “Resources” on Sakai include:
Brasoveanu, A. 2008b. Comparative correlatives as anaphora to differentials. SALT 18

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

- **Final exam**
  This course does not have a final exam.

- **Class presentation**
  Each student will present one of the readings for the class. 1-2 weeks before your presentation, you must submit a draft of your handout to MB to help you prepare your presentation and to make sure that you have read the material and that you understand it. You’re welcome to find a discussion partner and give a joint presentation.

- **Squib**
  The squib (5–7 pages, due Monday, Nov. 29) should summarize and critically review some conference paper on some type of discourse reference in some language. Finding a suitable paper is part of the task. You might start with the proceedings of major semantics conferences, e.g. Semantics and Linguistic Theory (SALT), Sinn und Bedeutung, Amsterdam Colloquium, and Semantics of Under-represented Languages in the Americas (SULA).

- **Conference-style paper**
  The final paper should be a draft that can be developed into a conference paper. It is due Monday, Dec. 20. It may build on your presentation or start from scratch. In either case you should use some formal theory discussed in class to develop a new analysis of new or old data on discourse reference of some type in some language. The paper should conform to the formatting and page limits of one of the above-mentioned conferences (submit your paper with the relevant style sheet or link to the relevant web page). Late papers will not be accepted. There will be no incompletes.
TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE (to be revised if and when necessary)

Th 9/2. **No class** (MB at a conference in Stuttgart)
   Read: Syllabus
M 9/6. **No class** (moved to W 9/8, see Rutgers academic calendar)

**TOPIC 1. Update with Centering**

   Read: Li 2004
Th 9/9. *Predicate Logic with Anaphora* (PLA)
   Read: Dekker 1994: Sec. 1–2.1
   Read: Dekker 1994: Sec. 2.2–3
Th 9/16. *Update with Nominal Centering* (*UC_δ*
   Read: Bittner 2011: Sec. 1–2.2 (ignore modal referents)
   Read: Bittner 2011: Sec. 2.3 (ignore modal referents)

**TOPIC 2. Centering theory of mood**

Th 9/23. Common ground update. *UC_δ* with worlds (*UC_ω*).
   Read: Stalnaker 1975
   Deadline for **Carlotta Pavese**: draft of handout due
M 9/27. Mood as modal (re)centering.
   Read: Bittner 2011: sec. 1–3.2 (ignore temporal section 2.4)
Th 9/30. Ordering semantics for conditionals (**Carlotta Pavese**)
   Read: Lewis 1973: Sec. 1, Lewis 1981: Sec. 1–5
M 10/4. Ordering semantics in *UC_ω*.
   Read: Bittner 2011: Sec. 4–6 (ignore temporal sections 4.3, 5.3, 6.3)
   Deadline for **Erik Hoversten**: draft of handout due

**TOPIC 3. Evidentiality in *UC_ω***

Th 10/7. Introduction to Cheyenne and evidentiality
   Read: Murray 2010: Ch. 1–2
M 10/11. Evidentials as not-at-issue content (**Erik Hoversten**)
   Read: Murray 2010: Ch. 7
   Deadline for **Vandana Bajaj**: draft of handout due
Th 10/14. Questions with evidential presuppositions.
   Read: Murray 2010: Ch. 8

**TOPIC 4. Degree constructions in *UC_ω***

M 10/18. Comparatives and other degree constructions. (**Vandana Bajaj**)
   Read: Schwarzschild 2008
   Read: Klein 1991
   Deadline for **Sara O’Neill**: draft of handout due
M 10/25. Correlative topic-comment structures.
   Brasoveanu 2008a, b
**Topic 5. Count-mass distinction in UC\(\delta^+\)**
Th 10/28. Generalized quantifiers and plurals. (*Sara O’Neill*)
   Read: Link 1987
M 11/1. Definite descriptions: *The dog/dogs/water.* Toward a unified theory.
   Read: Sharvy 1980
Th 11/4. UC\(\delta\) with objects and masses (UC\(\delta^+\)).
   Read: Link 1998: Appendix on lattice theory
   Deadline for *Ryan Denzer-King*: draft of handout due
   Read: Link 1983

**Topic 6. Centering theory of aspect**
   Read: Moens and Steedman 1988
   Read: Vendler 1957, Bach 1986
Th 11/18. UC\(\delta\) with events and states (UC\(\epsilon^+\)).
   Read: Bittner 2011: Sec. 2.4 (ignore referents for times)
M 11/22. *No class* (see Rutgers calendar)
Th 11/25. *No class* (Thanksgiving)

**M 11/29.** Aspect as eventuality (re)centering.
   Read: Webber 1988
   Deadline: *Squib* due

**Topic 7. Centering theory of tense**
Th 12/2. Event: instant :: state: duration. UC\(\epsilon^+\) with instants and durations (UC\(\tau^+\)).
   Read: Bittner 2011: Sec. 2.4
M 12/6. Time and modality without tenses or modals. UC\(\tau^+\) with worlds (full UC)
   Read: Bittner 2011: Sec. 3.3, 4.3, 5.3, 6.3
Th 12/9. Tense as topic time (re)centering
   Read: Partee 1973, Stone and Hardt 1999
M 12/13. Time and modality with tenses and modals
   Read: Stone 1997

**M 12/20. Final paper** (ideally, draft for a conference paper) due