

01:615:350:01 PRAGMATICS

Syllabus (updated 14 April 2011)

LECTURES

M, Th 8:10 – 9:30 am, SC-121.

INSTRUCTOR

Professor Maria Bittner

e-mail: mbittner@rci.rutgers.edu

office: SEM-203A

OFFICE HOURS & LOCATION

M 11:15 am – 12:15 pm in SEM-203A (by appointment only)

LINGUISTICS DEPARTMENT INFORMATION

URL: <http://ling.rutgers.edu>

SEM: 18 Seminary Place, New Brunswick, NJ 08901

Department Administrator: Danielle Berlingieri, SEM-102 (phone 732 932 7289)

PREREQUISITE

01:615:201 *Introduction to Linguistic Theory*, or permission of the instructor.

COURSE DESCRIPTION & GOALS

Theories of semantics and pragmatics are concerned with native speaker intuitions about meaning. *Pragmatics* deals with aspects of meaning that depend on various features of *utterances*—e.g. the speaker (*I*), addressee (*you*), time and place of utterance (*now, is v. was, here*), discourse context (*he, then, there*), the speaker's intentions (e.g. *Can you pass the salt?* can be a question or a request). In contrast, *Semantics*, narrowly understood, deals with the meaning of *sentences* once the reference of all the context-dependent constituents has been fixed.

This course is an introduction to formal pragmatic theory that explicitly models the context of utterance and then systematically updates the current state of information of discourse participants. By the end of this course students will be expected to be able to (i) identify types of linguistic inference (e.g. presupposition, entailment, and implicature), as well as indexical and anaphoric reference, and (ii) to use *Propositional Logic, Update Logic, and Dynamic Predicate Logic* to represent English discourse, and to use that representation to make predictions about contextual felicity (e.g. presupposition), truth conditions, and nominal anaphora.

TEXT:

There is no required textbook for this course. Required LECTURE NOTES (material students will be tested on) and optional READINGS (classical articles outlining and motivating the theories to be formalized in the lectures) will be made available under *Resources* on the course webpage.

COURSE WEBPAGE:

- You should have access to the website "01:615:350 Prgm S11" on Sakai. (You must be enrolled in the course to have access.)
- Click on "01:615:350 Prgm S11"
 - To download lecture materials (and optional readings) click on *Resources*
 - To download or submit the current homework assignment, click on *Assignments*.

POLICY ON RELIGIOUSLY OBSERVANT STUDENTS

It is the University policy (University Regulation on Attendance, Book 2, 2.4.7B, formerly 60.14f) to excuse without penalty students who are absent from class because of religious observances, and to allow the make-up of work missed because of such absence. Examinations shall not ordinarily be scheduled on those days when religiously observant students refrain from participating in secular activities. Absences for reasons of religious observance shall not be counted for purposes of reporting.

In the printed schedule of classes, students are advised that they should provide timely notification to instructors about necessary absences, and that they are responsible for making up the work or exams according to an agreed-upon schedule.

The published schedule of classes contains a reminder for students who are unable to participate in secular activities because of religious observance to notify their instructor as early in the semester as possible. Reasonable common sense, judgment, and the pursuit of mutual good will should result in the positive resolution of scheduling conflicts.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

You will be assigned an F for this course if you do not attend regularly. Attendance at lectures is compulsory. The Instructor takes attendance at the beginning of each class. If you are absent during that period more than 5 times, you will be assigned an F for the course.

This policy is subordinated to the Policy on Religiously Observant Students (above).

LATE ASSIGNMENT POLICY

Assignments must be handed in on the due date before the due time (see CLASS SCHEDULE below) Assignments must be submitted via the course *Sakai* site. Click on "Assignments" and follow the instructions to submit it.

Late assignments will **not** be accepted, except:

- If you are ill and missed the deadline, contact your Instructor to extend the deadline. You will be asked to provide proof of illness (usually a doctor's note).
- If you know you will miss a deadline due to religious observance, it is your responsibility to contact your Instructor early in the semester. You should arrange to submit the assignment on another date.

IN-CLASS EXAM POLICY

If you miss an in-class exam you will be assigned a score of **0 pts**, unless:

- If are ill and miss the exam, contact your Instructor to do the exam on another date. You will be asked to provide proof of illness (usually a doctor's note).
- If you know you will miss an exam due to religious observance, it is your responsibility to contact your Instructor early in the semester. You should arrange to do the exam on another date.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

You are expected to be familiar with and follow Rutgers' policies on Academic Integrity:

<http://ctaar.rutgers.edu/integrity/policy.html>

<http://ctaar.rutgers.edu/integrity/student.html>

Students may not collaborate on answering questions in homework assignments or exams; homework assignments and exams must be done independently. Collaboration is a violation of the Academic Integrity policy. All instances of plagiarism will be reported to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs.

CELL PHONE POLICY

5 pts penalty every time your cell phone rings while the Instructor is in class.

COMPLAINTS

The bylaws of the Linguistics Department direct that any complaint must

- First be directed to the Instructor: Maria Bittner
- If the complaint is not resolved to the satisfaction of all parties, it will be referred to the Linguistics Undergraduate Director: Paul de Lacy
- If the complaint is still not resolved to the satisfaction of all parties, it will be referred to the Chair of the department: Roger Schwarzschild
- If the complaint is still not resolved to the satisfaction of all parties, it will be referred to the Dean of the school.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

- **Final exam**
This course does *not* have a final exam.
- **In-class quizzes**
There will be three *in-class open-book* quizzes, which will account for 3×20 pts = **60 pts**.
- **Take-home quiz**
There will be one *take-home* quiz, which will account for **20 pts**.
- **Assignments**
There will be *nine* homework assignments (see class schedule below), which will account for 9×2 pts = **18 pts**.
The class schedule below indicates when assignments will be made available and due on Sakai under “01:615:350 Prgm S11”/*Assignments*. Your task will be to do the assignment and then to correct it yourself. The Instructor will *not* check your corrections. You will get 2 pts simply for doing the work.
- **On-time attendance**
You will get **2 pts** if the number of times during the semester when you are *late* or *absent without cause* (i.e. no religious observance or doctor's note) is 0–2.
- **Final grade**
A 100 – 90 pts
B+ 89.5 – 85 pts
B 84.5 – 80 pts

TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE

We will study the following topics in the indicated order. If we need more time at any point we'll take it, so we may not cover all of the topics on this syllabus. The homework assignments and the quizzes will be about whatever material we do cover.

Th 1/20 Syllabus.

TOPIC 1 Entailment (week 1 – 4)

M 1/24 Introduction.

Th 1/27 CLASS CANCELLED. **H1** (open 8pm, due Sa 1/29 by 8pm)

M 1/31 Solution to **H1**. A theory of truth & entailment.

Th 2/3 Logical (non-)entailment. **H2** (open 8pm, due Sa 2/5 by 8pm)

M 2/7 Solution to **H2**.

Th 2/10 **Quiz 1** (in-class, open book)

M 2/14 Solution to **Quiz 1**. More set theory.

TOPIC 2 Presupposition & assertion (week 4 – 7)

Th 2/17 Dynamics of information growth. *Update Logic* (UL). **H3** (open 8pm, due Sa 2/19 by 8pm)

M 2/21 Solution to **H3**. Presupposition and negation.

Th 2/24 Presupposition and context change. **H4** (open 8pm, due Sa 2/26 by 8pm)

M 2/28 Solution to **H4**. Presupposition projection.

Th 3/3 Entailment in UL. **H5** (open 8pm, due Sa 3/5 by 8pm)

M 3/7 Solution to **H5**.

Th 3/10 **Quiz 2** (in-class, open book)

SPRING BREAK (week 8)

TOPIC 3 Indexicality & anaphora (week 9 – 12)

M 3/21 Solution to **Quiz 2**. Indexicality.

Th 3/24 Discourse anaphora. **H6** (open 8pm, due Sa 3/26 by 8pm)

M 3/28 Solution to **H6**. *Predicate Logic* (PL).

Th 3/31 Anaphora in PL. **H7** (open 8pm, due Sa 4/2 by 8pm)

M 4/4 Solution to **H7**.

Th 4/7 **Quiz 3** (in-class, open book)

M 4/11 **NO CLASS** (MB out of town; Solution to **Quiz 3** available on sakai)

TOPIC 4. Anaphora & context change (week 12 – 15)

Th 4/14 *Dynamic Predicate Logic* (DPL). **H8** (open 8pm, due Sa 4/16 by 8pm)

M 4/18 Solution to **H8**.

Th 4/21 Anaphora in DPL. **H9** (open 8pm, due Sa 4/23 by 8pm)

M 4/25 Solution to **H9**.

Th 4/28 Anaphora in DPL ctd. Take-home **Quiz 4** (open 8pm, due M 5/2 *in class*)

M 5/2 Solution to **Quiz 4**.