

## Fenòmens Semàntics i Pragmàtics (21539)

**Curs:** quart

**Trimestre:** tercer

**Nombre de crèdits ECTS:** 4

**Hores de dedicació de l'estudiant:** 100

**Tipus d'assignatura:** Optativa

**Professor/s GG:** Berit Gehrke ([berit.gehrke@upf.edu](mailto:berit.gehrke@upf.edu), office 53.610)

**Llengua de docència:** anglès

### 1. General presentation

This course is an introduction to natural language semantics and pragmatics, including the basic issues and data that have traditionally been the focus of study in formal approaches, the most influential theoretical frameworks, and the most commonly used research methodologies. The overall goal is to develop the student's ability to analyze natural language semantic and pragmatic phenomena.

### 2. Skills to be developed

General skills:

- Analysis and problem solving: To be able to propose the best analysis of a semantic or pragmatic phenomenon given some set of theoretical concepts and specific methods.
- Application of theoretical knowledge to practical cases: To be able to apply theoretical concepts and knowledge about semantics and pragmatics to the analysis of new data.
- Motivation for quality: To be better able to recognize different degrees of precision in the analysis of data and to develop a sense of the importance of formulating descriptions and analyses with maximal precision.

Specific skills:

- Ability to reflect on the functioning of language: To be able to distinguish between the respective roles of semantics and pragmatics in linguistic communication.

### 3. Contents

- Conventional and inferential meaning
- Literal and figurative meaning
- Lexical meaning and semantic composition
- The dynamicity of meaning

#### 4. Grade

Regular assessment		Make-up			
Activity	Weight towards final grade	Can be made up / Cannot be made up	Weight towards final grade	Form of the make-up	Conditions/ observations
Exercise 1 in class	25%	Can be made up	25%	Another exercise with the same characteristics	
Exercise 2 in class	25%	Can be made up	25%	Another exercise with the same characteristics	
Final exam	40%	Can be made up	40%	Another exam with the same characteristics	You must score a grade of 50 to pass the final exam or the make-up
Participation in class	10%	Cannot be made up	10%	--	
Weekly homework	Can raise the final grade up to 0,5 points	Cannot be made up	--	--	The consistency and quality of the effort put into the homework will determine its impact on the final grade

#### 5. Methodology

The course is organized in the following way:

- 1 large group session/week; 1 seminar/week (3 hours)
- Reading: An average of 3 hours/week. You will be expected to do the required reading **before** the class in which it is discussed.
- Exercises: There will be weekly exercises (4 hours/week), the role of which is to give you the opportunity to make sure you understand the concepts and techniques that are discussed in class, as well as to prepare you for the exams. The exercises will be turned in electronically.

The large group sessions will consist in the presentation and discussion of the concepts and methods that are necessary to understand the readings and do the exercises. The seminar sessions will be mainly devoted to discussing the weekly exercises. Active participation of the student is essential in both types of classes, but especially in the seminars. The work to be done outside of class will mainly consist of the weekly readings and exercises.

## 6. Course materials

Obligatory reading:

Kearns, Kate. 2010. *Semantics* (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition). Palgrave Macmillan. (Can be easily purchased on line.)

Other material will be posted on the Aula Global.