Semantics 3
LING 660, CRN 5013
Fall 2016

Mondays and Wednesdays 2:35am-3:55pm
1085 Penfield, Room 117

Instructor
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Content of course
This course is a graduate level introduction to formal semantics. The course develops a basic compositional semantics for a number of extensional constructions. Topics include: predication, modification, semantic binding, the semantics of quantificational determiners, and pronouns. Students will familiarize themselves with a number of basic mathematical concepts that underlie the semantic interpretation system developed (sets, relations, functions.)

Evaluation
Weekly homework assignments (worth 100% of the final grade.)

Readings
Readings, class handouts, and assignments will be available via myCourses.
Although there is no required textbook, we will make extensive use of Heim and Kratzer’s textbook (a few copies are available at the McGill bookstore.)


A note on class handouts
Class handouts will be posted in myCourses. One handout usually covers more than one lecture. Handouts will be revised and modified from meeting to meeting, so you should always check myCourses for the latest version before coming to class.
Course Policies

Class participation
You are expected to participate vigorously in class discussions. Please contact me by email, if you have questions that you would like me to answer outside class.

Homework

Student collaboration
Students are encouraged to discuss homework assignments with their classmates, but every student must submit his or her own write-up. Homework assignments must clearly list the students that collaborated in the assignment. You are expected to hand in the assignment in class on the date that it is due. No late assignments will be accepted.

Level of difficulty
There will be times where the homework will mostly consist of ‘finger exercises’: you will be simply asked to apply rules and perform mechanical computations so that you understand what these rules and computations do. However, there will also be times where you will be forced to test the limits of what you learned in class and where you will have to explore and grope in the dark. This will be challenging and it can be sometimes frustrating for some people. Don’t despair. Making mistakes will help you figure out what you do not fully understand.

Academic integrity
McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures (for more information, see http://www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest). Students are advised to declare all sources in their homework assignments and final papers, following the citation conventions that are standard in the field.

Right to submit written work in English or French
In accord with McGill University’s Charter of Students’ Rights, students in this course have the right to submit any written work either in English or in French.

Inclusive learning environment
As the instructor of this course I endeavor to provide an inclusive learning environment. However, if you experience barriers to learning in this course, do not hesitate to discuss them with me and the Office for Students with Disabilities (514-398-6009).
Roadmap

The following is a preliminary and approximate list of topics and readings in chronological order. The list will most probably be adjusted and fine-tuned during the semester, in response to the needs of the class. Significant changes will be announced in class and kept track of in a course log, available in myCourses.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>W 2/11</td>
<td>Bound variable pronouns. E-type anaphora</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>W 23/11</td>
<td>Intensionality (II)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
13. M 28/11
   W 30/11  Possible appetizers (to choose from, most likely wishful thinking):
   Scalar implicatures, a preview.
   Modal indefinites, a preview.
   Actuality entailments, a preview.
   Geurts (2010), ch.3;
   Sauerland (2010).
   Alonso-Ovalle and
   Menéndez-Benito (2013)
   Hacquard (forthcoming)

14. M 5/12

Readings


Some Resources
Journals
Natural Language Semantics (since 1992)
Linguistics and Philosophy (since 1977)
Journal of Semantics (since 1982)
Semantics and Pragmatics (online open access journal; since 2008) [http://semprag.org/]
Snippets (online open access journal; since 2000) [http://www.ledonline.it/snippets/]

Annual conferences with proceedings
Semantics and Linguistic Theory (SALT, usually in North America.) Available online at: http://elanguage.net/journals/salt

Sinn und Bedeutung (SuB, in Europe). Recent proceedings available online at:
SuB9: http://ncs.ruhosting.nl/sub9/
SuB 14: http://www.univie.ac.at/sub14/
SuB 17: http://semanticsarchive.net/sub2012/
SuB 18: http://semanticsarchive.net/sub2013/
SuB 19: http://semanticsarchive.net/Archive/TVlN2I2Z/sub19proc.pdf

Amsterdam Colloquium (AC, in Amsterdam, every other year). Recent proceedings available online at:
AC20: http://semanticsarchive.net/Archive/mVkJk2N/AC2015-proceedings.pdf
AC19: http://www.illc.uva.nl/AC/AC2013/Proceedings/
AC18: http://www.springerlink.com/content/978-3-642-314810/#section=1087298&page=1
AC17: http://www.springerlink.com/content/978-3-642-14286-4/-section=784115&page=1
North East Linguistics Society (NELS)

West Coast Conference for Formal Linguistics (WCCFL, usually every year)
Recent proceedings available online: http://www.cascadilla.com/wccfl.html

An online paper archive
http://semanticsarchive.net/

Useful collections

Textbooks
De Swart, Henriëtte: 1998. Introduction to Natural Language Semantics. CSLI.

(If you read Italian, you should check out:
Informal introductions to formal semantics written for a general audience


Formal background


McCawley, James D.: 1981. *Everything that Linguists have Always Wanted to Know about Logic but Were Ashamed to Ask*, The University of Chicago Press.