Semantics 3  
LING 660, CRN 5013  
Fall 2018  

Tuesdays and Thursdays 1:05pm-2:25pm  
1085 Penfield, Room 117  

Instructor  
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Office location: 1085 Penfield, room 113.  
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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 85% of the final grade.)  
One snippet (worth 15% of the final grade, see below.)  

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.

The snippet

Your ‘snippet’ will be a very short, self-contained, and explicit note (max. 2-3 pages) that can:

(i) present a new set of data that either confirms or calls into question previously accepted generalizations, that poses a challenge to existing theories, or that leads to interesting theoretical questions, or

(ii) present inconsistencies, point out unnoticed assumptions, or call attention to new predictions of an existing analysis.

If your snippet presents a puzzle, it does not have to provide a solution to it.

You can read more about snippets here: http://www.ledonline.it/snippets/

Snippets will be presented in class, at the end of the semester.

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](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>1.</td>
<td>T 9/4 Th 9/6</td>
<td>Luis out of town (<em>Sinn und Bedeutung</em>)</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Partee, ter Meulen and Wall (1993), ch. 1-2,</td>
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<td>5.</td>
<td>T 10/2 Th 10/4</td>
<td>Meaning composition, semantic types. Modification (I)</td>
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<td>H&amp;K, ch. 5.</td>
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<td>7.</td>
<td>T 10/16 Th 10/18</td>
<td>DP semantics (I): Quantifiers</td>
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<td>Larson (1995), secs. 4-5, Szabolesi (2010), ch.3</td>
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<td>8.</td>
<td>T 10/23 Th 10/25</td>
<td>DP semantics (I): Quantifiers</td>
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<td>Fox (2003) 2.1-2.3, H&amp;K, ch. 7</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Heim (2008)</td>
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<td>Alonso-Ovalle and Menéndez-Benito (2013)</td>
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<td>12.</td>
<td>T 11/20 Th 11/22</td>
<td>The limits of extensionality. Intensionality (I)</td>
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13. T 11/27 Intensionality (II)

Possible appetizers (to choose from, most likely wishful thinking):
Scalar implicatures, a preview.
Actuality entailments, a preview.
Snippet presentation session(s) to be scheduled as make up session(s).

Geurts (2010), ch.3;
Sauerl (2010).
Hacquard (forthcoming)

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/](http://semprag.org/)

*Snippets* (online open access journal; since 2000) [http://www.ledonline.it/snippets/](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](http://elanguage.net/journals/salt)

*Sinn und Bedeutung* (SuB, in Europe). Recent proceedings available online at:

SuB9: [http://ncs.ruhosting.nl/sub9/](http://ncs.ruhosting.nl/sub9/)


SuB 14: [http://www.univie.ac.at/sub14/](http://www.univie.ac.at/sub14/)


SuB 19: [http://semanticsarchive.net/Archive/TVlN2I2Z/sub19proc.pdf](http://semanticsarchive.net/Archive/TVlN2I2Z/sub19proc.pdf)

SuB 20: [https://semanticsarchive.net/Archive/GRmOGQ4N/SUB20html4.html](https://semanticsarchive.net/Archive/GRmOGQ4N/SUB20html4.html)

SuB 21: [https://sites.google.com/site/sinnundbedeutung21/proceedings-preprints](https://sites.google.com/site/sinnundbedeutung21/proceedings-preprints)

SuB 22: [https://semanticsarchive.net/sub2018/](https://semanticsarchive.net/sub2018/)

*Amsterdam Colloquium* (AC, in Amsterdam, every other year). Recent proceedings available online at:

AC21: [https://semanticsarchive.net/Archive/jZiM2FhZ/AC2017-Proceedings.pdf](https://semanticsarchive.net/Archive/jZiM2FhZ/AC2017-Proceedings.pdf)

AC20: [http://semanticsarchive.net/Archive/mVkOTk2N/AC2015-proceedings.pdf](http://semanticsarchive.net/Archive/mVkOTk2N/AC2015-proceedings.pdf)


AC18: [http://www.springerlink.com/content/978-3-642-314810/#section=1087298&page=1](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](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.