

**Postgraduate Program**

**2023 - 2024**

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| Semester One | MA Linguistics |
| Course Title: | Semantics |
| Lecturer | Asst. Prof. Dr. Lanja Abdul Razzaq Dabbagh |
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| Office Hours | Book appointment by email |

Course Description/Overview:

The course introduces students to the complex issues of meaning 1) on the level of lexemes or words, 2) on the paradigmatic level, or the vocabulary structure and 3) to the relationship between semantics and syntax, or the relationships on the syntagmatic level. Basic traditional semantic concepts are discussed, such as homonymy, synonymy, polysemy, antonymy, metaphor and metonymy, and paradigmatic and syntagmatic relations that arise from the construction grammar approach to meaning in language.

* Course Objectives:
* The purpose of this course is to introduce MA students to major theoretical frameworks and current issues in semantics and demonstrate the relevance and usefulness of semantic studies to the field of linguistics. Semantics is a core discipline of linguistics, in the sense that (both descriptive and theoretical) research in most other sub- disciplines (especially in syntax, morphology, lexicology, pragmatics, discourse studies, computational linguistics, historical linguistics, and much of psycholinguistics and sociolinguistics) presupposes acquaintance with some basic concepts and analytical tools of semantics.
* Learning Outcomes:
* The course is an attempt to provide an overview of the field that enables students to seek answers to further questions about semantics and to start formulating and pursuing their own research interests.

Course Outline:

* Week 1 Introduction and guidance
* Week 2 Basic Ideas in Semantics (Hurford, Heasley, and Smith, p. 1)
* Week 3 Meaning and Semantic (Sebastan Lobner, p. 3)
* Week 4 Descriptive, social, and expressive meaning (Sebastan Lobner, p. 19)
* Week 5 Meanings and Readings (Sebastan Lobner, p. 39)
* Week 6 Predication (Sebastan Lobner, p. 99)
* Week 7: Midterm Exam 20%
* Week 8 Tense and Aspect (Kate Kearns, p. 176)
* Week 9 Thematic Roles and Lexical Conceptual structure
* Week 10 Foundations: the phoneme concept (Kate Kearns, p. 206)
* Week 11 Interpersonal and non- literal Meaning (Hurford, Heasley, and Smith, p. 260)
* Week 12 Meaning and Language Comparison (Sebastan Lobner, p. 3)
* Week 13 Overview
* Week 14 Practices, Term papers, and discussions

Methods of Teaching:

* With the presentation and discussion of each lecture, students will have the opportunity to learn about different aspects in phonetics and phonology. This is done by the students through their assigned presentations.
* Term papers are required during this course. Each student should pick a topic from the recommended sources. These papers will be discussed, graded, and included in the final paper discussion.
* Students are asked to take a mid- course term paper discussion. The discussion will cover whatever work has been performed on the topic of the term paper.

Student's obligation:

Students are required to attend classes as scheduled. However, sometimes prior to class permission are given if logical justifications are provided. It is very important for students to attend the classes; the lessons are connected to each other, and class activities are essential to obtain more information and benefits. A big part of students’ evaluation depends on participation in the class.

Assessment Scheme:

1. 15% for presentations and discussions

3. 15% for term paper

4. 20% for the midterm exam

4. 50% for the final exam

Reading List:

* Semantics by James R. Hurford, Brendan Heasley, and Michael B. Smith.
* Understanding Semantics by Sebastian Lobner.
* Semantics by Kate Kearns
* Linguistic Semantics: An Introduction by John Lyons.
* CRUSE, A. 2000. An Introduction to Semantics and Pragmatics. Oxford: Oxford University Press
* Hurford, R. &Heasley,B,. (1986). Semantics: a course book, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
* LYONS, J. 1995. Linguistic Semantics. An Introduction. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press
* Murphy, M. Lynee. 2003. Semantic Relations and the Lexicon. Cambridge: University Press.
* Palmer, F.R. 1981. Semantics: A New Outline. London: Cambridge University Press.
* RAMBAUD, M. (2012). Basic Semantics. UNIVERSIDAD NACIONAL DE EDUCACIÓN A DISTANCIA
* Saeed, J. I. 2003. Semantics. Blackwell Publishing. Victoria, Carlton.
* Web References
* https://www.kapita.iq/storage/app/media/Research/BusinessLandscapeII\_Web.p df
* https://kapita.iq/storage/app/media/Landscape.pdf

Reviewed by: Dr. Sirwan Abdulkarim Ali