

LT6422: ADVANCED TOPICS IN SEMANTICS

Effective Term

Semester B 2024/25

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

Advanced Topics in Semantics

Subject Code

LT - Linguistics and Translation

Course Number

6422

Academic Unit

Linguistics and Translation (LT)

College/School

College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (CH)

Course Duration

One Semester

Credit Units

3

Level

P5, P6 - Postgraduate Degree

Medium of Instruction

English

Medium of Assessment

English

Prerequisites

LT5403 Semantics and Discourse or special approval by the Programme Leader

Precursors

Nil

Equivalent Courses

Nil

Exclusive Courses

LT8422 Topics in Semantics

Part II Course Details

Abstract

This is a seminar type course. It aims to develop students' ability through case study, particularly in the following respects: (i) acquisition of in-depth knowledge of current issues in semantics (ii) critical review of relevant literature, (iii) formulation of hypotheses/theories, and (iv) academic argumentation.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs		Weighting (if DEC-A1 app.)		DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1	Describe and discuss current issues in semantics		x		
2	Critically review relevant literature			x	
3	formulate hypotheses/theories				x
4	Verify the hypotheses				x

A1: Attitude

Develop an attitude of discovery/innovation/creativity, as demonstrated by students possessing a strong sense of curiosity, asking questions actively, challenging assumptions or engaging in inquiry together with teachers.

A2: Ability

Develop the ability/skill needed to discover/innovate/create, as demonstrated by students possessing critical thinking skills to assess ideas, acquiring research skills, synthesizing knowledge across disciplines or applying academic knowledge to real-life problems.

A3: Accomplishments

Demonstrate accomplishment of discovery/innovation/creativity through producing /constructing creative works/new artefacts, effective solutions to real-life problems or new processes.

Learning and Teaching Activities (LTAs)

LTAs		Brief Description	CILO No.	Hours/week (if applicable)
1	1	Lecture and Class Activities: Theoretical foundations and concepts related to the above learning outcomes are laid out in the lecture. Emphasis is put on how these theories can be applied to language data. Discussion and exercises are provided to familiarize students with the theoretical concepts acquired in the lecture and to use these concepts to generate new ideas.	1, 2, 3, 4	
2	2	Independent learning: Materials are posted onto the blackboard from time to time, and students are advised to refer to these materials for independent learning.	1, 2, 3, 4	

3	3	Assignments: Students are required to complete three assignments based on what they have learnt in class. Emphasis of assignments is placed on both theoretical aspect and data analysis.	1, 2, 3, 4	
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Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

ATs		CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks (e.g. Parameter for GenAI use)
1	Students are required to complete three assignments during the semester			
2	First assignment	1, 2, 3, 4	35	
3	Second assignment	1, 2, 3, 4	35	
4	Third assignment	1, 2, 3, 4	30	

Continuous Assessment (%)

100

Assessment Rubrics (AR)**Assessment Task**

1st Assignment (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

Criterion

Demonstrate understanding of current issues in semantics and how they can be used in analysing natural language data.

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Demonstrate strong evidence of capacity to grasp important concepts in semantics; and evidence of excellent understanding of how semantic theories can be applied to analyse natural language data.

Good

(B+, B, B-) Demonstrate some evidence of capacity to grasp important concepts in semantics, and evidence of good understanding of how semantic theories can be applied to analyse natural language data.

Fair

(C+, C, C-) Demonstrate evidence of ability to grasp basic concepts in semantics; and adequate understanding of how semantic theories can be applied to analyse natural language data.

Marginal

(D) Demonstrate little understanding of basic concepts in semantics and little understanding of how semantic theories can be applied to analyse natural language data.

Failure

(F) Demonstrate limited understanding or virtually no understanding of basic concepts of semantics and how semantic theories can be applied to analyse natural language data.

Assessment Task

2nd Assignment (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

Criterion

Demonstrate understanding of important concepts in conducting semantic analysis. Show the capacity to formulate and verify hypotheses to analyse natural languages .

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Demonstrate excellent understanding of important concepts in conducting semantic analysis, and strong evidence of capacity to formulate and verify hypotheses to analyse natural languages.

Good

(B+, B, B-) Demonstrate good understanding of concepts in conducting semantic analysis, and some evidence of capacity to formulate and verify hypotheses to analyse natural languages.

Fair

(C+, C, C-) Demonstrate adequate understanding of concepts in conducting semantic analysis and demonstrate limited capacity to formulate and verify hypotheses to analyse natural languages.

Marginal

(D) Demonstrate little understanding of basic concepts in conducting semantic analysis and demonstrate no ability to formulate hypotheses to analyse natural languages.

Failure

(F) Demonstrate limited understanding or virtually no understanding of basic concepts of semantics and little or no ability to formulate hypotheses to analyze natural language data.

Assessment Task

3rd Assignment (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

Criterion

Apart from the ability of conducting semantic analysis, demonstrate through writing the ability to critically discuss issues in semantics.

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Apart from the ability of conducting linguistic analysis, demonstrate strong evidence of excellent ability through writing to critically discuss issues in semantics.

Good

(B+, B, B-) Apart from the ability of conducting linguistic analysis, demonstrate some evidence of good ability through writing to critically discuss issues in semantics.

Fair

(C+, C, C-) Apart from the ability of conducting linguistic analysis, demonstrate adequate ability through writing to discuss fundamental issues in semantics.

Marginal

(D) Apart from the ability of conducting linguistic analysis, demonstrate little ability through writing to discuss fundamental issues in semantics.

Failure

(F) Demonstrate limited ability or virtually no ability to conduct linguistic analysis and demonstrate little or no ability through writing to discuss fundamental issues in semantics.

Assessment Task

1st Assignment (for students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

Criterion

Demonstrate understanding of current issues in semantics and how they can be used in analysing natural language data.

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Demonstrate strong evidence of capacity to grasp important concepts in semantics; and evidence of excellent understanding of how semantic theories can be applied to analyse natural language data.

Good

(B+, B) Demonstrate some evidence of capacity to grasp important concepts in semantics, and evidence of good understanding of how semantic theories can be applied to analyse natural language data.

Marginal

(B-, C+, C) Demonstrate limited capacity to grasp basic concepts in semantics; and adequate understanding of how semantic theories can be applied to analyse natural language data.

Failure

(F) Demonstrate limited understanding or virtually no understanding of basic concepts of semantics and how semantic theories can be applied to analyse natural language data.

Assessment Task

2nd Assignment (for students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

Criterion

Demonstrate understanding of important concepts in conducting semantic analysis. Show the capacity to formulate and verify hypotheses to analyse natural languages .

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Demonstrate excellent understanding of important concepts in conducting semantic analysis, and strong evidence of capacity to formulate and verify hypotheses to analyse natural languages.

Good

(B+, B) Demonstrate good understanding of concepts in conducting semantic analysis, and some evidence of capacity to formulate and verify hypotheses to analyse natural languages.

Marginal

(B-, C+, C) Demonstrate adequate understanding of concepts in conducting semantic analysis and demonstrate limited capacity to formulate and verify hypotheses to analyse natural languages.

Failure

(F) Demonstrate limited understanding or virtually no understanding of basic concepts of semantics and little or no ability to formulate hypotheses to analyze natural language data.

Assessment Task

3rd Assignment (for students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

Criterion

Apart from the ability of conducting semantic analysis, demonstrate through writing the ability to critically discuss issues in semantics.

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Apart from the ability of conducting linguistic analysis, demonstrate strong evidence of excellent ability through writing to critically discuss issues in semantics.

Good

(B+, B) Apart from the ability of conducting linguistic analysis, demonstrate some evidence of good ability through writing to critically discuss issues in semantics.

Marginal

(B-, C+, C) Apart from the ability of conducting linguistic analysis, demonstrate adequate or basic ability through writing to discuss fundamental issues in semantics.

Failure

(F) Demonstrate limited ability or virtually no ability to conduct linguistic analysis and demonstrate little or no ability through writing to discuss fundamental issues in semantics.

Part III Other Information

Keyword Syllabus

Topics will vary according to the interests and specialization of the instructor. The domain of study will be based on a relevant, coherent body of published literature which has played or is currently playing a role in the development of theories in semantics. The seminar will typically consist of an introduction to and critical review of the literature, comparison and evaluation of alternative hypotheses and theories, and data analysis.

Reading List

Compulsory Readings

Title	
1	Heim, Irene and Angelika Kratzer. (1998) Semantics in Generative Grammar. Oxford: Blackwell

Additional Readings

Title	
1	Cann Ronnie. (1993) Formal Semantics. Cambridge: CUP.
2	Cann Ronnie, Ruth Kempson and Eleni Gregoromichelaki. (2009) Semantics: An Introduction to Meaning in Language. Cambridge: CUP.