

LT4242: TOPICS IN SEMANTICS

Effective Term

Semester B 2022/23

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

Topics in Semantics

Subject Code

LT - Linguistics and Translation

Course Number

4242

Academic Unit

Linguistics and Translation (LT)

College/School

College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (CH)

Course Duration

One Semester

Credit Units

3

Level

B1, B2, B3, B4 - Bachelor's Degree

Medium of Instruction

English

Medium of Assessment

English

Prerequisites

LT3211 Semantics

Precursors

LT3209 Syntax and LT3214 Phonology

Equivalent Courses

CTL4242 Topics in Semantics

Exclusive Courses

Nil

Part II Course Details

Abstract

This course aims to build on students' knowledge of semantic theory acquired in earlier courses, and to develop students' research ability through examining various issues in semantics, with emphases put on the following respects: (i) acquisition

of in-depth knowledge of current issues in semantics, with reference to their methodological assumptions, (ii) critical review of relevant literature, (iii) independent formulation of hypotheses/theories, and (iv) academic writing.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs	Weighting (if app.)	DEC-A1	DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1	Gain a solid understanding of current issues in semantics.	x	x	x
2	Practically incorporate the semantic knowledge in a particular theory into linguistic analyses.			
3	Critically review important literature.	x	x	x
4	Independently formulate hypotheses/theories on a specific topic.	x	x	x
5	Verify hypotheses.	x	x	x
6	Conduct independent research on current issues in the field, discovering and formulating hypotheses that are descriptively, explanatorily and theoretically adequate.	x	x	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.

Teaching and Learning Activities (TLAs)

TLAs	Brief Description	CILO No.	Hours/week (if applicable)	
1	Lectures	Lectures are for presenting concepts, and will consist of an introduction to and critical review of the literature, comparison and evaluation of alternative hypotheses and theories. Emphasis will also be put on how hypotheses and theories can be applied to language data.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	3 hours

2	Assignments and quiz	Students are required to complete assignments based on what they have learnt in class. A quiz will be conducted to have an overall assessment on students' learning.	1, 2	
3	Research papers	Students are expected to work on a specific topic in semantics and summarize their results in the form of a short research paper.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	

Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

ATs	CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks (e.g. Parameter for GenAI use)	
1	Two assignments (2)	1, 2	30	(15% x 2)
2	One final quiz	1, 2	30	
3	One short research paper (about 3,000 words excluding references), based on a specific topic.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	40	

Continuous Assessment (%)

100

Examination (%)

0

Assessment Rubrics (AR)**Assessment Task**

1. Assignments

Criterion

Demonstrate the ability to conduct analysis on current issues in semantics, based on relevant literature and theories.

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

Demonstrate excellent ability in conducting analysis on current issues in semantics.

Good (B+, B, B-)

Demonstrate good ability in conducting analysis on current issues in semantics.

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Demonstrate adequate ability in conducting analysis on current issues in semantics.

Marginal (D)

Show little ability in conducting analysis on current issues in semantics.

Failure (F)

Show virtually no ability in conducting analysis on current issues in semantics.

Assessment Task

2. Final quiz

Criterion

Demonstrate understanding of the concepts and analytical tools in semantic theory.

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

Demonstrate understanding of the concepts in semantic theory, and demonstrate excellent ability in capturing relevant analytical skills.

Good (B+, B, B-)

Demonstrate understanding of the concepts in semantic theory and demonstrate good ability in capturing relevant analytical skills.

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Demonstrate understanding of the concepts in semantic theory and demonstrate adequate ability in capturing relevant analytical skills.

Marginal (D)

Demonstrate understanding of the concepts in semantic theory and demonstrate limited ability in capturing relevant analytical skills.

Failure (F)

Demonstrate understanding of the concepts in semantic theory and demonstrate no ability in capturing relevant analytical skills.

Assessment Task

3. A short research paper

Criterion

Demonstrate the ability to conduct independent research on current issues in semantics and the ability to formulate and verify hypotheses.

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

Demonstrate strong evidence of excellent ability in conducting independent research on a particular topic in semantics and in formulating and verifying hypotheses on a specific topic.

Good (B+, B, B-)

Demonstrate some evidence of good ability in conducting independent research on a particular topic in semantics and in formulating and verifying hypotheses on a specific topic.

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Demonstrate adequate ability in conducting independent research on a particular topic in semantics and in formulating hypotheses on a specific topic.

Marginal (D)

Demonstrate little ability in conducting independent research on a particular topic in semantics and limited ability in formulating hypotheses on a specific topic.

Failure (F)

Demonstrate limited or virtually no ability in conducting independent research on a particular topic in semantics.

Part III Other Information

Keyword Syllabus

Due to the nature of the course, 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, with emphases on acquisition of in-depth knowledge of the current issues in semantic theory, critical review of relevant literature and independent formulation of hypotheses/theories, comparison and evaluation of alternative hypotheses and theories, and data analysis.

Reading List

Compulsory Readings

	Title
1	Kearns, Kate. (2011) Semantics. 2nd edition. New York: Palgrave Macmillan.
2	Saeed, John I. (2016) Semantics. 4th edition. Oxford: Wiley-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.
3	Chierchia, Chierchia and Sally McConnell-Ginet. (2000) Meaning and Grammar. 2nd edition. London: MIT Press.
4	Portner, Paul H. (2005) What is Meaning? Fundamentals of Formal Semantics. Oxford: Blackwell Publishing.
5	Smith, Carlota S. (1990/1997) The Parameter of Aspect. 2nd edition. Boston: Kluwer.