ARTS2690 Course Outline

School of Humanities and Languages

ARTS 2690, Semantics and Pragmatics
Semester 2, 2015

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1. Course Staff and Contact Details

Course Convenor/Lecturer

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Dr. Debra Aarons</th>
<th>Room</th>
<th>MB 250</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Phone</td>
<td>9385 3468 use email</td>
<td>Email</td>
<td><a href="mailto:d.aarons@unsw.edu.au">d.aarons@unsw.edu.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consultation Time</td>
<td>Thursday 2-3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. Course Details

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Units of Credit (UoC)</th>
<th>6 UoC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Course Description</td>
<td>This course considers the nature and scope of semantics and pragmatics and their place within Linguistics. Topics in semantics include: the nature and analysis of lexical meanings, the relationship between meaning and cognition, the relationship between semantics and grammar, and semantic change. Topics in pragmatics include: speech act theory, politeness theory, implicature and presupposition.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course Aims</td>
<td>1. To explore the concepts, assumptions and methodology in the study of meaning used by contemporary scholars of semantics and linguistic pragmatics.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2. To develop a principled understanding of the central concerns of semantics and pragmatics and the relevant distinctions between them.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Learning Outcomes</td>
<td>1. Distinguish among the concepts of sentence meaning, utterance meaning and speaker meaning.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2. Survey the field of inquiry of pragmatics and its relevant conceptual assumptions and apply appropriate descriptive and analytical procedures.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3. Survey the field of lexical, phrasal and sentential semantics and apply appropriate descriptive analytical procedures.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate Attributes</td>
<td>1. Skills of analytic and creative thinking in problem solving</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2. Skills of scholarly inquiry in linguistics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3. Skills in critical analysis in linguistics</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3. Learning and Teaching Rationale
This course is an integral component of the undergraduate linguistics curriculum. In order to understand the cognitive and social dimensions of language it is essential to investigate the organization of the semantic and pragmatic systems and characterise them accordingly.

4. Teaching Strategies
Each week there will be a two-hour interactive lecture, designed to elaborate on and clarify essential information in the reading, plus a separate one-hour tutorial. Tutorials will be mainly devoted to discussing and analysing data in the exercises assigned for tutorial homework.

5. Course Assessment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment Task</th>
<th>Length</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Learning Outcomes Assessed</th>
<th>Graduate Attributes Assessed</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Weekly tutorial</td>
<td>2 exercises</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>1, 2, 3</td>
<td>1, 2, 3</td>
<td>ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-class test</td>
<td>90 minutes</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>1, 3</td>
<td>1, 2, 3</td>
<td>3rd September</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-class test</td>
<td>90 minutes</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>1, 2</td>
<td>1, 2, 3</td>
<td>15th October</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Problem set</td>
<td>4 exercises</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>1, 2, 3</td>
<td>1, 2, 3</td>
<td>5th November</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presentation of tutorial work</td>
<td>15 minutes</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>1, 2, 3</td>
<td>1, 2, 3</td>
<td>As assigned</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please Note: The Arts and Social Sciences Protocols and Guidelines state:
A student who attends less than 80% of the classes/activities and has not submitted appropriate supporting documentation to the Course Authority to explain their absence may be awarded a grade of UF (Unsatisfactory Fail).

The Attendance Guidelines can be found in full at:

Formal Examination
There is no formal examination in this course.

Grades
All results are reviewed at the end of each semester and may be adjusted to ensure equitable marking across the School.

The proportion of marks lying in each grading range is determined not by any formula or quota system, but by the way that students respond to assessment tasks and how well they meet the objectives of the course. Nevertheless, since higher grades imply performance that is well above average, the number of distinctions and high distinctions awarded in a typical course is relatively small. At the other extreme, on average 6.1% of students do not meet minimum standards and a little more (8.6%) in first year courses. For more information on the grading categories see: https://student.unsw.edu.au/grades

Submission of Assessment Tasks
Assignments which are submitted to the School Assignment Box must have a properly completed School Assessment Coversheet, with the declaration signed and dated by hand. The Coversheet can be downloaded from https://hal.arts.unsw.edu.au/students/courses/course-outlines/. It is your responsibility to make a backup copy of the assignment prior to submission and retain it.

Assignments must be submitted before 4:00pm on the due date. Assignments received after this time will be marked as having been received late.

**Late Submission of Assignments**

The Arts and Social Sciences late submissions guidelines state the following:

- An assessed task is deemed late if it is submitted after the specified time and date as set out in the course Learning Management System (LMS).
- The late penalty is the **loss of 3%** of the total possible marks for the task for each day or part thereof the work is late.
- Work submitted **14 days after** the due date will be marked and feedback provided but no mark will be recorded. If the work would have received a pass mark but for the lateness, and the work is a compulsory course component, a student will be deemed to have met that requirement. This does not apply to a task that is assessed but no mark is awarded.
- Work submitted **21 days after** the due date will not be accepted for marking or feedback and will receive no mark or grade. If the assessment task is a compulsory component of the course a student will automatically fail the course.

The Late Submissions Guidelines can be found in full at: https://www.arts.unsw.edu.au/current-students/academic-information/Protocols-Guidelines/

The penalty may not apply where students are able to provide documentary evidence of illness or serious misadventure. Time pressure resulting from undertaking assignments for other courses does not constitute an acceptable excuse for lateness.

**6. Extension of Time for Submission of Assessment Tasks**

The Arts and Social Sciences Extension Guidelines apply to all assessed tasks regardless of whether or not a grade is awarded, except the following:

1. any form of test/examination/assessed activity undertaken during regular class contact hours
2. any task specifically identified by the Course Authority (the academic in charge of the course) in the Course Outline or Learning Management System (LMS), for example, Moodle, as not available for extension requests.

The complete Arts and Social Sciences Extension Guidelines can be read here.

If you wish to request an extension for submission of an assessment task you need to do so via myUNSW using the **Special Consideration** section. You will need to submit documentary evidence in support of your request.

A student who missed an assessment activity held within class contact hours should apply for Special Consideration via myUNSW.
7. Attendance

The Arts and Social Sciences Attendance Guidelines state the following:

- A student is expected to attend all class contact hours for a face-to-face or blended course and complete all activities for a blended or fully online course.

- If a student is unable to attend all classes for a course due to timetable clashes, the student must complete the Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences Permitted Timetable Clash form (see information at Item 8 below). A student unable to attend lectures in a course conducted by the School of Education can apply for “Permission to Participate in Lectures Online”.

- Where practical, a student’s attendance will be recorded. Individual course outlines/LMS will set out the conditions under which attendance will be measured.

- A student who arrives more than 15 minutes late may be penalised for non-attendance. If such a penalty is imposed, the student must be informed verbally at the end of class and advised in writing within 24 hours.

- If a student experiences illness, misadventure or other occurrence that makes absence from a class/activity unavoidable, or expects to be absent from a forthcoming class/activity, they should seek permission from the Course Authority, and where applicable, should be accompanied by an original or certified copy of a medical certificate or other form of appropriate evidence.

- Reserve members of the Australian Defence Force who require absences of more than two weeks due to full-time service may be provided an exemption. The student may also be permitted to discontinue enrolment without academic or financial penalty.

- If a Course Authority rejects a student’s request for absence from a class or activity the student must be advised in writing of the grounds for the rejection.

- A Course Authority may excuse a student from classes or activities for up to one month. However, they may assign additional and/or alternative tasks to ensure compliance.

- A Course Authority considering the granting of absence must be satisfied a student will still be able to meet the course’s learning outcomes and/or volume of learning.

- A student seeking approval to be absent for more than one month must apply in writing to the Dean and provide all original or certified supporting documentation.

- The Dean will only grant such a request after consultation with the Course Authority to ensure that measures can be organised that will allow the student to meet the course’s learning outcomes and volume of learning.

- A student who attends less than 80% of the classes/activities and has not submitted appropriate supporting documentation to the Course Authority to explain their absence may be awarded a final grade of UF (Unsatisfactory Fail).

- A student who has submitted the appropriate documentation but attends less than 66% of the classes/activities will be asked by the Course Authority to apply to discontinue the course without failure rather than be awarded a final grade of UF. The final decision as to whether a student can be withdrawn without fail is made by Student Administration and Records.

Students who falsify their attendance or falsify attendance on behalf of another student will be dealt with under the Student Misconduct Policy.
8. Class Clash

Students who are enrolled in an Arts and Social Sciences program (single or dual) and have an unavoidable timetable clash can apply for permissible timetable clash by completing an online application form. Students must meet the rules and conditions in order to apply for permissible clash. The rules and conditions can be accessed online in full at: https://www.arts.unsw.edu.au/media/FASSFile/Permissible_Clash_Rules.pdf

For students who are enrolled in a non-Arts and Social Sciences program, they must seek advice from their home faculty on permissible clash approval.

9. Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

Plagiarism is presenting someone else’s thoughts or work as your own. It can take many forms, from not having appropriate academic referencing to deliberate cheating.

In many cases plagiarism is the result of inexperience about academic conventions. The University has resources and information to assist you to avoid plagiarism.

The Learning Centre assists students with understanding academic integrity and how to not plagiarise. Information is available on their website: https://student.unsw.edu.au/plagiarism/. They also hold workshops and can help students one-on-one.

If plagiarism is found in your work when you are in first year, your lecturer will offer you assistance to improve your academic skills. They may ask you to look at some online resources, attend the Learning Centre, or sometimes resubmit your work with the problem fixed. However, more serious instances in first year, such as stealing another student’s work or paying someone to do your work, may be investigated under the Student Misconduct Procedures.

Repeated plagiarism (even in first year), plagiarism after first year, or serious instances, may also be investigated under the Student Misconduct Procedures. The penalties under the procedures can include a reduction in marks, failing a course or for the most serious matters (like plagiarism in an Honours thesis) or even suspension from the university. The Student Misconduct Procedures are available here: http://www.gs.unsw.edu.au/policy/documents/studentmisconductprocedures.pdf

10. Course Schedule

To view course timetable, please visit: http://www.timetable.unsw.edu.au/

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week Commencing:</th>
<th>Lecture date</th>
<th>Lecture Content</th>
<th>Tutorial exercises</th>
<th>Readings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1 Monday 27th July</td>
<td>Week 1 Thursday 30th July</td>
<td>What is meaning?</td>
<td>Tutorial exercises will be given out in week 1</td>
<td>Riemer Chapter 1; Chapman Chapter 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 2 Monday 3rd August</td>
<td>Week 2 Thursday 6th August</td>
<td>Meaning and Definition</td>
<td></td>
<td>Riemer Chapter 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 3 Monday</td>
<td>Week 3 Thursday</td>
<td>Analysing and distinguishing</td>
<td></td>
<td>Riemer Chapter 5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### 11. Course Resources

**Textbook Details**

**Journals**

**Additional Readings**
These will be assigned throughout the course.

**Websites**

### 12. Course Evaluation and Development
Courses are periodically reviewed and students' feedback is used to improve them. Feedback is gathered using various means including UNSW's Course and Teaching Evaluation and Improvement (CATEI) process.

### 13. Student Support

The Learning Centre is available for individual consultation and workshops on academic skills. Find out more by visiting the Centre's website at:

http://www.lc.unsw.edu.au

### 14. Grievances

All students should be treated fairly in the course of their studies at UNSW. Students who feel they have not been dealt with fairly should, in the first instance, attempt to resolve any issues with their tutor or the course convenors.

If such an approach fails to resolve the matter, the School of Humanities and Languages has an academic member of staff who acts as a Grievance Officer for the School. This staff member is identified on the notice board in the School of Humanities and Languages. Further information about UNSW grievance procedures is available at:

https://student.unsw.edu.au/complaints

### 15. Other Information

**myUNSW**

myUNSW is the online access point for UNSW services and information, integrating online services for applicants, commencing and current students and UNSW staff. To visit myUNSW please visit either of the below links:

https://my.unsw.edu.au
https://my.unsw.edu.au/student/atoz/ABC.html

**OHS**

UNSW's Occupational Health and Safety Policy requires each person to work safely and responsibly, in order to avoid personal injury and to protect the safety of others. For all matters relating to Occupational Health, Safety and environment, see

https://www.ohs.unsw.edu.au/

**Special Consideration**

In cases where illness or other circumstances produce repeated or sustained absence, students should apply for Special Consideration as soon as possible.

The application must be made via Online Services in myUNSW. Log into myUNSW and go to My Student Profile tab > My Student Services channel > Online Services > Special Consideration.

Applications on the grounds of illness must be filled in by a medical practitioner. Further information is available at:

https://student.unsw.edu.au/special-consideration
Student Equity and Disabilities Unit

Students who have a disability that requires some adjustment in their learning and teaching environment are encouraged to discuss their study needs with the course convener prior to or at the commencement of the course, or with the Student Equity Officers (Disability) in the Student Equity and Disabilities Unit (9385 4734). Information for students with disabilities is available at: [http://www.studentequity.unsw.edu.au/](http://www.studentequity.unsw.edu.au/)

Issues that can be discussed may include access to materials, signers or note-takers, the provision of services and additional examination and assessment arrangements. Early notification is essential to enable any necessary adjustments to be made.