

**LING 5347 -- Pragmatics  
Spring 2012**

**Professor:** Laurel Smith Stvan  
**Meetings:** 216 Trimble Hall, Tues and Thurs. 5:30 – 6:50 p.m.  
**Office:** 125 Hammond Hall  
**Office Hours:** Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday TBA; and by appointment  
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**Description of Course Content**

In this class we will be studying some of the ways in which the context and form of an utterance interact to affect our understanding of meaning. Our main topics this term will include reference, deixis, implicature, presupposition, speech acts, and the highlighting of information structure through word order and intonation.

This class has no prerequisites. For linguistics MA and PhD students this course is the one of the Meaning and Use requirements. For students in the MA or Certificate in TESOL the course can count as an elective or as a sociolinguistics credit.

This is a graduate-level course with two objectives:

- to provide practice in analyzing the impact of truth conditions, context, and speaker intention on the interpretation of meaning.
- to practice reading and discussing linguistic literature on pragmatics in order to gain insight into both theoretical aspects and practical applications of meaning construction in communication.

**Student Learning Outcomes**

Upon successfully completing this course, students should be able to:

- navigate journal databases at the UT Arlington library in order to find additional journal articles on pragmatic issues
- identify and explain many of the basic questions investigated in pragmatics in order to situate the core issues of context-dependent meaning
- describe and illustrate how presuppositions can be identified in language

This document is an example of a syllabus that is typical for the class. An official "day one" syllabus will be provided by the instructor at the first class meeting.

- describe and illustrate how hearers can calculate an indirect speech act and a conversational implicature
- describe ways in which speaker expectations about meaning created through interlocutor interaction could affect cross-cultural conversations and second language instruction.

**Required Course Materials**

There are three items required. Two textbooks are available at the campus bookstore (400 S. Pecan St--on the corner of Pecan and UTA Boulevard) or through any other bookseller of your choice:

1. Green, Georgia M. 1996. 2nd ed. *Pragmatics and Natural Language Understanding*. Mahwah, N.J: Erlbaum. (ISBN: 0-8058-2166-X).
2. Huang, Yan. *Pragmatics*, 2007. Oxford University Press. (ISBN: 978-19-924368-6.)
3. The third is a set of required articles that will be available on Blackboard shortly after class starts.

[Several items will be available on 3-hour reserve at the UTA Central Library as well, including additional recommended texts by Levinson and Verschueren.]

## Course Requirements and Grading Policy

Course grades will be determined as follows:

### 1. Attendance / Participation **10%**

Regular class attendance is required. You are responsible for keeping track of the material presented in class lectures, for any handouts distributed in class, as well as for any group work done in class. As part of your participation, you are required to give a brief (10-15 minute) oral presentation to the class on your final paper topic.

### 2. Homework Assignments (3 X 16%) **48%**

There will be 3 homework essays during the semester, each worth 15% of the final grade. Each assignment should be 2-3 pages, typed, double spaced. They should contain enough content to show that you understood the readings sufficiently enough to find some real-life instance or application of the assigned topic. I will grade on the following elements -- in descending order of importance: content (having the right information), clarity and originality of prose (showing that you've digested the material), and form (correct spelling and grammar). Late assignments will be accepted only if a student has contacted me and received permission in advance. There is no make-up or extra credit work in this class.

### 3. Vocabulary Quiz **10 %**

There will be an in-class vocabulary quiz in the second to last week of regular classes. It will cover names and terms from the entire course.

### 4. Library task exercises

As preparation for the final paper, there will be two brief exercises requiring you to list specified information that you have found from the UTA library, including information specific to your paper topic. Completion of these tasks is ungraded, but is a necessary part of your final paper grade.

### 5. Term Paper **32%**

Your final paper will be due on Wednesday of exam week. Each student should turn in an original 12-15 page paper. At that time (or the week before, depending on class size) you will give a brief, ungraded oral presentation to share your findings with the class.

**There will be no final exam.**

The grades for each component will be determined as follows:

|             |            |          |           |               |
|-------------|------------|----------|-----------|---------------|
| A- 90-92 %  | B- 80-82 % | C- 70-72 | D- 60-62% | F 59 or lower |
| A 93-96 %   | B 83-86 %  | C 73-76  | D 63-66   |               |
| A+ 97-100 % | B+ 87-89   | C+ 77-79 | D+ 67-69  |               |

## Course Policies

Class attendance is **required**. You are responsible for the material presented in class lectures and for any handouts passed out in class as well as for any group work done in class; for your own benefit, come to class. But if you must miss a lecture, do the reading and homework, get notes and information from another student, and then make an appointment to talk to me as soon as possible.

Assignments are due at the beginning of class on the day listed in the schedule, and no later. No late assignments will be accepted without PRIOR approval. Even approved late submissions will receive a reduction in points.

## Important Academic and Administrative Policies

**Final Review Week:** A period of five class days prior to the first day of final examinations in the long sessions shall be designated as Final Review Week. The purpose of this week is to allow students sufficient time to prepare for final examinations. During this week, there shall be no scheduled activities such as required field trips or performances; and no instructor shall assign any themes, research problems or exercises of similar scope that have a completion date during or following this week unless specified in the course syllabus. During Final Review Week, an instructor shall not give any examinations constituting 10% or more of the final grade, except makeup tests and laboratory examinations. In addition, no instructor shall give any portion of the final examination during Final Review Week.

**Americans With Disabilities Act:** The University of Texas at Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of federal equal opportunity legislation (Public Law 93112, The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended). With the passage of new federal legislation entitled the "Americans With Disabilities Act" (ADA), pursuant to section 504 of The Rehabilitation Act, there is renewed focus on providing this population with the same opportunities enjoyed by all citizens.

All members of the UTA faculty are required by law to provide "reasonable accommodation" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. As a student, your responsibility rests with informing the instructor at the

beginning of the semester (you must inform me in writing (e-mail is fine) no later than Tuesday, Sept. 7, 2010) and in providing authorized documentation through designated administrative channels; for more information, contact UTA's Office of Students with Disabilities (located in the Lower Level of University Center).

According to Department of Linguistics and TESOL policy, "unofficial" or "informal" requests for accommodations (i.e., those not recorded by the Office of Students with Disabilities) cannot be honored.

**Academic Dishonesty:** At The University of Texas at Arlington, academic dishonesty is a completely unacceptable mode of conduct and will not be tolerated in any form. Students involved in academic dishonesty will be disciplined in accordance with University regulations and procedures. Discipline may include suspension or expulsion from UTA.

According to the UT System Regents' Rules and Regulations, "Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts" (Part One, Chapter VI, Section 3, Subsection 3.2, Subdivision 3.22).

While the Department of Linguistics and TESOL hopes to foster a sense of community in which students can enhance their educational experience by conferring with each other about the lectures, readings, and assignments, all work submitted must be the product of each student's own effort. Students are expected to know and honor the standards of academic integrity followed by American universities; ignorance of these standards is not an excuse for committing an act of academic dishonesty (including plagiarism). If you have questions, please speak with your instructor, your academic advisor, or the department chair.

Please be advised that departmental policy requires instructors to formally file charges with the Office of Student Conduct, following procedures laid out for faculty there (<http://www.uta.edu/studentaffairs/conduct/faculty.html>), as well as notify the department chair of the filing of the charges.

**Student Support Services Available:** The University of Texas at Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. These resources include tutoring, major-based learning centers, developmental education, advising and mentoring, personal counseling, and federally funded programs. For individualized referrals to resources for any reason, students may contact the

Maverick Resource Hotline at 817-272-6107 or visit [www.uta.edu/resources](http://www.uta.edu/resources) for more information.

**Drop Policy:** Students may drop or swap (adding and dropping a class concurrently) classes through self-service in MyMav from the beginning of the registration period through the late registration period. After the late registration period, students must see their academic advisor to drop a class or withdraw. Undeclared students must see an advisor in the University Advising Center. Drops can continue through a point two-thirds of the way through the term or session. It is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw if they do not plan to attend after registering. **Students will not be automatically dropped for non-attendance.** Repayment of certain types of financial aid administered through the University may be required as the result of dropping classes or withdrawing. Contact the Financial Aid Office for more information. **(Note: Students enrolled in graduate courses may not "replace" a grade).**

A student dropping his/her last (only) course cannot withdraw as above. Rather, s/he must go in person to the UTA Registrar's Office (Davis Hall, First Floor) and complete a request to resign from the university.

**Auditors:** With instructor permission, Department of Linguistics and TESOL faculty, staff, and students currently enrolled in a linguistics/TESOL programs may be able to audit a course (with the permission of the professor). Audited courses cannot be used to satisfy any degree or program requirements/electives, nor will any credit (including retroactive) be granted for audited courses.