

Seminar in Semantics/Pragmatics

Technical specs

Time: Mon, 12:30-3:30 PM

Place: Hammond Hall, Linguistics conference room

Office Hours: T/TH 2-3 PM (or by appointment)

Office: Hammond Hall 132E

Email: suwon.yoon@uta.edu

Faculty profile: <https://www.uta.edu/mentis/public/#profile/profile/view/id/12977>

Course description

This seminar addresses core questions in the domain of *polarity* phenomena. We focus on the occurrence of various polarity items (PIs) such as *any*, negative polarity items (NPIs), minimizers, free choice items (FCIs), and positive polarity items (PPIs). We examine these items in a variety of languages and in a variety of contexts ranging from downward entailing to upward entailing or non-monotone, questions, modal, and other nonveridical contexts.

Student Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this course, students will understand the diversity of the phenomenon, and will be able to conduct an independent research on the semantic and pragmatic questions regarding the well-formedness of PIs. We seek to answer the following questions: (i) the licensing question; (ii) the sensitivity question; (iii) the role of focus particle *even* and *only*; (iv) the relationship between negative polarity and negative concord; (v) the relationship between PIs and wh-phrases; and (vi) the relationship between positive polarity items and NPIs.

Readings: NO textbook; Readings will be uploaded on blackboard.

Course Schedule:

| | Content | Reading | Notes |
|---------------------|--|--|--|
| Week 1: Jan. 13 | Varieties of polarity and the licensing question | Giannakidou 1999 | *weekly questions & discussions |
| Week 2: Jan. 20 | No class: Martin Luther King, Jr.'s day | | |
| Week 3: Jan. 27 | The scalar dimension of polarity: widening and focus | Kadmon & Landman 1993 Krifka 1995 | |
| Week 4: Feb. 3 | <i>Even</i> , additive particles, and polarity | Hoeksema & Rullmann 2001 Giannakidou 2007 | |
| Week 5: Feb. 10 | Sensitivity and interpretation in free choice items | Horn 2005 Dayal 2004 | |
| Week 6: Feb. 17 | Polarity and wh-indeterminates | Kratzer & Shimoyama 2002 Lin 1998 | |
| Week 7: Feb. 24 | Polarity and negative concord | Watanabe 2004 Giannakidou 2000 | |
| Week 8: Mar. 3 | Positive polarity | Szabolci 2004 | |
| Week 9: Mar. 10 | Spring Break | -- | |
| Week 10: Mar. 17 | Polarity items in questions | Guerzoni 2004 den Dikken & Giannakidou | Topic for final project due: |

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|---------------------|---|---|-----------------------------------|
| | | 2002 | March 17 |
| Week 11: Mar. 24 | Polarity items in questions | Romero & Han 2004 | |
| Week 12: Mar. 31 | Polarity items with <i>only</i> and factive verbs | Beaver & Clark 2003 Giannakidou 2006 | |
| Week 13: Apr. 7 | Polarity items with <i>only</i> and factive verbs | Horn 1996 | |
| Week 14: Apr. 14 | Presentations on final projects | | |
| Week 15: Apr. 21 | Presentations on final projects | | |
| Week 16 | | | Final paper due: May 9 |

"As the instructor for this course, I reserve the right to adjust this schedule in any way that serves the educational needs the students of enrolled in this course. –S. Yoon."

Requirements:

The requirements for the course will include reading, presentations, a proposal and a final paper. Each of you will give a brief presentation of your research topic to the class during the last two weeks of the semester.

- **Attendance (15%).**
On-time attendance, preparation for class, and active participation in discussion are required. More than one (unexcused) absence will negatively affect your grade.
- **Research questions and online/offline discussion (25%)**
Every week students are required to read the two assigned readings and upload 2-3 questions from BOTH papers (at least one question from each paper) on blackboard "discussion board". The questions must be uploaded by 24 hours before the class (12:30pm, Sunday), which will be discussed in class and may continue to be discussed online afterwards. Participation in both online and offline discussion will positively affect the grade.
- **Presentations (30%):**
 - i. Students will be asked to present and lead discussion in one or more papers in class. (20%)
 - ii. Students will present their own final project at the end of the semester. (10%)
- **Final project (30%):**

First, a 2-3-page (double-spaced) statement of your paper topic must be handed in right after spring break. (10%)

Second, in the final paper, you can either apply some of the tools we've learned to a new set of data in any language you are familiar with, or discuss some theoretical tension in the set of analyses presented in class. The final paper (10-15 pages, double-spaced) must be entirely individual work. (20%)

GRADING

The final grade will be an average of all grades received on the following requirements:

- Attendance (15%)
- Research questions (25%)
- Presentations (30%)
- Final project (30%)

Librarian to Contact: Jody Bailey (jbailey@uta.edu)

OTHER COURSE POLICIES

Electronic devices: Please turn off and keep off all pagers, electronic games, MP3 and CD players, and cell-phones. If you are using a lap-top, please use it only for course related matters—failure to do so will negatively affect your participation grade.

Late submission of assignments: Turn in all assignments on time. Late assignments will be accepted but with a grade penalty of up to two grade points (late assignments will not be accepted for credit once a new assignment is handed out). Assignments submitted late are unlikely to be returned to you in a timely manner, and they will not receive the same amount of feedback as an assignment handed in on time.

OTHER POLICIES

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 Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships for more information.

Americans with Disabilities Act: The University of Texas at Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of all federal equal opportunity legislation, including the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). All instructors at UT Arlington are required by law to provide “reasonable accommodations” to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Any student requiring an accommodation for this course must provide the instructor with official documentation in the form of a letter certified by the staff in the Office for Students with Disabilities, University Hall 102. Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at www.uta.edu/disability or by calling the Office for Students with Disabilities at (817) 272-3364.

Academic Integrity: Students enrolled in this course are expected to adhere to the UT Arlington Honor Code:

I pledge, on my honor, to uphold UT Arlington's tradition of academic integrity, a tradition that values hard work and honest effort in the pursuit of academic excellence.

I promise that I will submit only work that I personally create or contribute to group collaborations, and I will appropriately reference any work from other sources. I will follow the highest standards of integrity and uphold the spirit of the Honor Code.

UT Arlington faculty members may employ the Honor Code as they see fit in their courses, including (but not limited to) having students acknowledge the honor code as part of an examination or requiring students to incorporate the honor code into any work submitted. Per UT System *Regents' Rule* 50101, §2.2, suspected violations of university's standards for academic integrity (including the Honor Code)

will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Violators will be disciplined in accordance with University policy, which may result in the student's suspension or expulsion from the University.

Student Support Services: 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 for more information.

Electronic Communication: UT Arlington has adopted MavMail as its official means to communicate with students about important deadlines and events, as well as to transact university-related business regarding financial aid, tuition, grades, graduation, etc. All students are assigned a MavMail account and are responsible for checking the inbox regularly. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, which remains active even after graduation. Information about activating and using MavMail is available at <http://www.uta.edu/oit/cs/email/mavmail.php>.

Student Feedback Survey: At the end of each term, students enrolled in classes categorized as "lecture," "seminar," or "laboratory" shall be directed to complete an online Student Feedback Survey (SFS). Instructions on how to access the SFS for this course will be sent directly to each student through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. Each student's feedback enters the SFS database anonymously and is aggregated with that of other students enrolled in the course. UT Arlington's effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback is required by state law; students are strongly urged to participate. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/sfs>.

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 class 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. During this week, classes are held as scheduled. In addition, instructors are not required to limit content to topics that have been previously covered; they may introduce new concepts as appropriate.

Emergency Exit Procedures: Should we experience an emergency event that requires us to vacate the building, students should exit the room and move toward the nearest exit, [which is located at XXX](#). When exiting the building during an emergency, one should never take an elevator but should use the stairwells. Faculty members and instructional staff will assist students in selecting the safest route for evacuation and will make arrangements to assist handicapped individuals.
granted.