

Semantics

Technical specs

Time: Tue./Thu., 3:30-4:50PM

Place: TH 21

Office Hours: Wed. 2-4 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 course is an advanced graduate-level introduction to formal semantics. It is designed to prepare students for serious research in these areas. We deal with basic tools in Model-theoretic semantics, compositionality, and more specific core topics such as negation, quantification, mood and modality, noun phrases, indefinites, definiteness, tense, aspect, and events. We overview the current literature of these topics and further examine these issues from a cross-linguistic perspective. Before taking this course, you should have some previous knowledge of semantics (e.g., 4345, undergraduate semantics/pragmatics, or a course in mathematical or philosophical logic).

Student Learning Outcomes

The course will be formally and conceptually challenging, so diligent reading and *active* participation in discussion is expected. On successful completion of this course, students will understand the core tools and theoretical issues of semantics, and will be able to conduct an independent research on the semantic and pragmatic questions regarding the relevant topics, or interface issues with other subfield of linguistics.

Textbook: No textbook; readings will be uploaded on blackboard, or available at online library catalog.

→ Lecture notes and other supplemental articles will be provided during the class or on the course website.

Course Schedule: (subject to change)

	Content	Reading	Notes
Week 1: Aug. 26, 28	Formal Semantics and formal Pragmatics	Grice 1975, Potts 2007	blackboard
Week 2: Sept. 2, 4	Model-theoretic semantics, lamda calculus	Heim-Kratzer Ch.1-2	blackboard
Week 3: Sept. 9, 11	Negation, disjunction (logical connectives)	de Swart Ch. 3	blackboard
Week 4: Sept. 16, 18	Quantification	Heim-Kratzer Ch.6	blackboard
Week 5: Sept. 23, 25	Formal semantics and Compositionality	Kearns 2011, Ch. 4	library catalog
Week 6: Sept.30, Oct.2	more on Compositionality	--	
Week 7: Oct. 7, 9	Modality and possible worlds	Kratzer 1981	blackboard
Week 8: Oct. 14, 16	<i>Topic presentations; TBA</i>	--	
Week 9 Oct. 21, 23	Noun phrases and gerneralized quantifiers	de Swart 1998, Ch. 8	blackboard

Week 10: Oct. 28, 30	Definiteness, familiarity	Abbott 2014	blackboard
Week 11: Nov. 4, 6	Mood and intensionality	Portner 1997	blackboard
Week 12: Nov. 11, 13	Classification of Aktionsarten	Kearns 2011, Ch. 8	library catalog
Week 13: Nov. 18, 20	Tense and Aspect	Kearns 2011, Ch. 9	(hard copy to be distributed)
Week 14: Nov. 25, 27	<i>Final presentations</i> (Nov. 27: no class: thanksgiving)		
Week 15: Dec. 2	<i>Final presentations</i>		
Week 16:	Final project due: Dec. 12		

“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 presentation of your research topic to the class during the last two weeks of the semester. **Late posting of research question will NOT be accepted. Postponement of presentation/final paper will NOT be given without documented medical or family emergency.** You must notify me before the class/deadline if either of these events occurs. Further, a formal hard copy request for makeup must be submitted along with supporting documents. The decision on the makeup will be made after review of such documents. Makeups will be under the conditions set by the instructor. **Requirement missed for any other reason will result in a score of ZERO.** Grading policy will be given on the first day of class.

- **Attendance (10%).**

Students are expected to come to class on time and must **behave in a professional manner** during class. **More than three unexcused absence** will automatically bump **your grade to one lower level**. Only formal support for the reasons of absence will be accepted.

- **Research questions and online/offline discussion (20%)**

Every week students are required to read the assigned readings and upload 1-2 questions on blackboard “discussion board”. The questions must be uploaded two days before class (by midnight on 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 present a proposal of their paper topic on week 8. (10%)
- ii. Students will present their own final project at the end of the semester. (20%)

- **Final project (40%):**

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, and/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. Late submission will NOT be accepted.

COURSE POLICIES

- 1) Students are responsible for **checking the course Blackboard** regularly for the update.
- 2) **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.

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

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. For more information, contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships (<http://www.uta.edu/aao/fao/>).

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.

Title IX: The University of Texas at Arlington is committed to upholding U.S. Federal Law "Title IX" such that no member of the UT Arlington community shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity. For more information, visit www.uta.edu/titleIX.

Academic Integrity: Students enrolled all UT Arlington courses 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.

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 \[XX\]](#). 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 individuals with disabilities.

<p>Emergency Phone Numbers: In case of an on-campus emergency, call the UT Arlington Police Department at 817-272-3003 (non-campus phone), 2-3003 (campus phone). You may also dial 911.</p>
