

LING 5347 (001)
Pragmatics
Fall 2012

Professor: Laurel Smith Stvan
Office: 125 Hammond Hall
Office Hours: Tuesday and Wednesday 2:00-3:00 and other times by appointment
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Office: 121 Hammond Hall
Office Hours: To be announced

Class Meetings: 020 Trimble Hall (basement), Tues. and Thurs. 12:30 – 1:50 p.m.

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
- 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 required items. Two textbooks are available at the campus bookstore (400 S. Pecan St--on the corner of Pecan and UTA Boulevard) or through another 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.

Descriptions of major assignments and examinations

Course grades will be determined as follows:

1. Attendance / Participation **5%**

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

Beyond the time required to attend each class meeting, students enrolled in this course should expect to spend at least an additional three hours per week of their own time in course-related activities, including reading required materials, completing assignments, preparing for exams, etc.

Course Policies

2. Homework Assignments (7 X 10%) 70%

There will be 7 homework essays during the semester, each worth 10% 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 5 %

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

4. Term Paper 20%

Your final paper will be due on Thursday 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.

Grading

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	

Students are expected to keep track of their performance throughout the semester and seek guidance from available sources (including the instructor) if their performance drops below satisfactory levels.

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

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 a 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.

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: All 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.

Instructors 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.

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 **Student Support Services:** UT 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. Resources include tutoring, major-based learning centers, developmental education, advising and mentoring, personal counseling, and federally funded programs. For individualized referrals, students may visit the reception desk at University College

(Ransom Hall), call the Maverick Resource Hotline at 817-272-6107, send a message to resources@uta.edu, or view the information at www.uta.edu/resources.

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://web.uta.edu/ses/fao>). **(Note: Students enrolled in graduate courses may not repeat a class to "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.

Ling. 4347/5347 -- Pragmatics Fall 2012

[Last Updated: **Aug 22, 2012:** *As the instructor for this course, I reserve the right to adjust this schedule in any way that serves the educational needs of the students enrolled in this course: Laurel Stvan.*]

Readings to have prepared for class

Tasks or events to be aware of [G=grad student U =Undergrad]

1.	Thu. Aug. 23	No reading for today. We'll discuss what pragmatics is.	
2.	Tue. Aug. 28	Huang Ch. 1 Introduction	
3.	Thu. Aug. 30	Green Ch. 1: What is Pragmatics	G/U HW #1 Due
4.	Tue. Sept. 4	Green Ch. 2 pp. 17-25: Indexicals and Anaphora	
5.	Thu. Sept. 6	Fillmore (1975). Santa Cruz Lectures on Deixis, pp. 38-49	
6.	Tue. Sept. 11	Huang Ch. 5: Deixis	
7.	Thu. Sept. 13	Green Ch. 2 pp. 25-35: Anaphora	G/U HW #2 Due (Deixis)
8.	Tue. Sept. 18	Clark and Marshall. (1981) Definite Reference and Mutual Knowledge	
9.	Thu. Sept. 20	Green Ch. 3 pp. 37-61: Reference and Indeterminacy	
10.	Tue. Sept. 25	Huang Ch. 2: Implicature	
11.	Thu. Sept. 27	Green, Ch. 5: Implicature	
12.	Tue. Oct. 2	Grice (1967). Logic and Conversation	
13.	Thu. Oct. 4	Stvan (1993). Activity Implicatures	G/U HW #3 Due
14.	Tue. Oct. 9	Meet with Jody Bailey in the UTA Central Library	
15.	Thu. Oct. 11	Huang Ch. 4: Speech Acts	G/U HW #4 Due (Library Task)
16.	Tue. Oct. 16	Searle (1975). Indirect Speech Acts	
17.	Thu. Oct. 18	Goddard (1998): Speech Act Verbs AND Olshtain and Cohen (1991): Teaching Speech Act Behavior to Non-native Speakers	

18.	Tue. Oct 23	Green, Presupposition, pp. 72-88	G/U HW #5 Due (Speech Acts)
19.	Thu. Oct 25	Huang Ch. 3: Presupposition	
20.	Tue. Oct 30	Simons (2011): On the Conversational Basis of Some Presuppositions	
21.	Thu. Nov. 1	Word Order. Green Ch. 6: Pragmatics and Syntax	
22.	Tue. Nov. 6	Ward and Birner (2001): Discourse and Information Structure	G HW #6 Due (RQ & Outline)
23.	Thu. Nov. 8	Grads meet with me today or tomorrow to discuss progress on your paper Scheduled meetings only, no meeting of the full class	U HW#6 Due
24.	Tue. Nov. 13	Prosody: Eisenberg (2002). Teaching Machines to Hear; Ladd (1975). Stylized Intonation; AND	G/U HW #7 Due (Info. Structure)
25.	Thu. Nov 15	Ward and Hirschberg (1985). Implicating Uncertainty Kaspar (1997). Can Pragmatic Competence be Taught?	
26.	Tue. Nov 20	No Pragmatics class—paper writing day	U HW #8 Due
27.	Thu. Nov 22	THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY	
28.	Tue. Nov 27	No readings, we'll hear about your paper topics	G First 5 Grad presentations U HW #9 Due
29.	Thu. Nov 29	Feedback Surveys and Vocabulary Quiz	G/U Quiz
30.	Tue. Dec 4	No readings, we'll hear about your paper topics	G Last 5 Grad presentations U HW #10 is Due
EXAM PERIOD: Thu. Dec 6		No meeting during exam week	Grad student term papers are due by 5:00 pm

Additional Semester Dates to Note

Mon. Sept 10	Census Date (last day to add into a class)
Wed. Oct 31	Last day to drop a course