

LIN1145H1S - Semantics 2003-04

An introduction to formal semantics for students with a background in linguistic theory. This course provides students with the tools they need to read primary literature in formal linguistic semantics, and to incorporate semantics into their own research. No background in logic or philosophy of language is assumed.

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When I'm not in my office, you can send me an e-mail, or leave a message for me in my mailbox in the Department of Linguistics.

Class Hours: Mondays, 5:00-6:00, RL6071 **Office Hours:** Mondays, 1-3 p.m., RL6074
Wednesdays, 7:00-9:00, RL6071

Required texts:

Bach, Emmon. *Informal Lectures on Formal Semantics*. Out of print; available from instructor.
Heim, Irene, & Angelika Kratzer. 1998. *Semantics in Generative Grammar*. Oxford: Blackwell.
Portner, Paul, & Barbara Hall Partee. 2002. *Formal Semantics: the Essential Readings*. Oxford: Blackwell.

Other useful texts:

Chierchia, Gennaro, and Sally McConnell-Ginet. 1990. *Meaning and Grammar: an Introduction to Semantics*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.
Gamut, L. T. F. 1991. *Logic, Language and Meaning* (2 volumes). Chicago: University of Chicago Press. (Note: L. T. F. Gamut is a collective pseudonym for J. F. A. K. van Benthem, J. A. G. Groenendijk, D. H. J. de Jongh, M. J. B. Stokhof, and H. J. Verkuyl.)
Lappin, Shalom (ed.). 1996. *The Handbook of Contemporary Semantic Theory*. Oxford: Blackwell.

Evaluation:

Item	Due Date	Weight
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Homework exercises	periodic	50%
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- The homework exercises will range from exercises designed to familiarize students with logical notation, to "thinking questions" that challenge students to make connections between the formal semantics material and what they know about syntactic and morphological theory, and to question some of the assumptions made in formal semantics.

Midterm assignment	February 24	20%
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- The midterm assignment will be similar in substance to the homework exercises, but will be on a somewhat larger scale, with more careful presentation expected.

Final paper	April 9	30%
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- The final paper will be an investigation of a topic chosen by the student in consultation with the instructor. The paper could consist primarily of critique and commentary on a paper or papers, or it could be an analysis of a phenomenon or problem in semantics.