

ENG 236: SEMANTICS AND PRAGMATICS

Linguistics Section • Department of English Studies • University of Cyprus

Spring Semester 2006: Tuesdays & Fridays, 9.00–10.30 @ Room E 002

www.punksinscience.org/kleanthes/courses/UCY06F/SP

**Kleanthes Grohmann, Assist. Prof. ☎ Email: kleanthi@ucy.ac.cy
Office Hours: TUE & FRI 12.00–13.00 + by appointment ☎ M 004
Web: www.punksinscience.org/kleanthes ☎ Phone: 2289 2106**

DESCRIPTION

The course aims to provide an understanding of the principles underlying the expression of meanings through language. It surveys basic topics in semantics such as sense and reference, lexical semantics and basic sense relations, semantics and grammar, simple logic. It also provides an introduction to pragmatics and the negotiation of interpersonal meanings in contexts of situation. [*from UG catalogue*]

ASSESSMENT

Regular attendance is strongly advised! Besides the class lectures, you will be graded as follows:

1. one final exam covering the entire course (in-class) (50%)
2. two sets of exercise assignments (to be typewritten) (50%)
3. presence & active participation in class throughout (±x...)

The final will be held in class during the exam period and it will cover the entire course. Exercises are to be completed alone or with at most one fellow student (in which case both names must appear on the solutions); they must be typewritten. Cheating in any way will result in a failed course grade — the same goes for any attempt of plagiarism, in which case the issue will go much further: I don't accept even a hint of plagiarism! You better familiarize yourselves with the rules. (Last warning.)

READING

As last semester, all classes will follow the same pattern:

- (i) *I will assign you readings,*
- (ii) *which you will read for next class,*
- (iii) *when I will lecture on that material.*

Coupled with the fact that the material we will cover might be quite abstract and difficult at times, this also means: It is very important that you attend all classes (if you want to pass the course)! Classes will be crucial and equally crucial will be that you (try to) understand everything we do.

On the syllabus you'll find your reading assignments. Feel free to take a stab at all the exercises that are provided within an assigned reading unit; we will discuss some of them (and others) in class.

There is a required textbook which every student should have a copy of (available from Moufflon):

Portner, Paul H. 2005. *What Is Meaning? Fundamentals of Formal Semantics*. Oxford: Blackwell.

I will also make available two supplementary readings on pragmatics in the form of photocopies.

**LIST OF BOOKS REQUESTED FOR RESERVE / SHORT-TERM LOAN FOR
Assist. Prof. Kleanthes K. Grohmann
Department of English Studies**

ENG 236: Semantics & Pragmatics (Spring 2006)

1. Austin, J. 1962. *How to Do Things with Words*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press. [P106.A9 1975]
2. Bach, E. 1989. *Informal Lectures on Formal Semantics*. Stony Brook, NY: SUNY Press. [TO BE ORDERED]
3. Chierchia, G. and S. McConnell-Ginet. 2000². *Meaning and Grammar: An Introduction to Semantics*. Cambridge, Mass.; MIT Press. [TO BE ORDERED, only older 1990 edition present]
4. Cruse D.A. 1986. *Lexical Semantics*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. [P325.C78 1986]
5. de Swart, H. 1998. *Introduction to Natural Language Semantics*. Stanford, Calif.: CSLI Publications. [P325.S957 1998]
6. Davis, S. (ed.). 1991. *Pragmatics: A Reader*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. [P99.4.P72P736 1991]
7. Heim, I. & A. Kratzer. 1997. *Semantics and Generative Grammar*. Oxford: Blackwell. [P325.5.G45H45 1998]
8. Jackendoff, R. 1990. *Semantic Structures*. Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press. [P325.J28 1990]
9. Larson, R.K. & G. Segal. 1995. *Knowledge of Meaning: An Introduction to Semantic Theory*. Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press. [P325.L298 1995]
10. Levin, B. & M. Rappaport Hovav. 1995. *Unaccusativity: At the Syntax-Lexical Semantics Interface*. Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press. [P281.L48 1995]
11. Portner, P.H. 2005. *What Is Meaning? Fundamentals of Formal Semantics*. Oxford: Blackwell. [TO BE ORDERED]
12. Pustejovsky, J. 1995. *The Generative Lexicon*. Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press. [P325.P85 1995]
13. Saeed, J.I. 1997. *Semantics*. Oxford: Blackwell. [P325.S2 1997]
14. Verschueren, J. 1999. *Understanding Pragmatics*. London: Arnold. [P99.4.P72V47 1999]
15. Wierzbicka, A. 1996. *Semantics: Primes and Universals*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. [P325.5.U54W54 1996]

SYLLABUS

<p>January 24: CLASS 1 COURSE INTRODUCTION [HANDOUT OVERVIEW & SYLLABUS]</p>	<p>January 27: CLASS 2 Meaning [PHP:§1.1-1.2/3-12]</p>
<p><u>January 31: NO CLASS!</u> <i>BREAK FROM ME</i></p>	<p>February 3: CLASS 3 Truth-Conditions [PHP:§1.3/12-25]</p>
<p>February 7: CLASS 4 Reference & Compositionality [PHP:ch.2/29-34]</p>	<p>February 10: CLASS 5 More Predicators [PHP:§§3.1-3.4/40-49]</p>
<p>February 14: CLASS 6 Events, Sets & Functions [PHP:§§3.5-3.6/49-59]</p>	<p>February 17: CLASS 7 Modifiers [PHP:chap.4/61-76]</p>
<p>February 21: CLASS 8 [EXX-1 DUE] R-Expressions [PHP:§§5.1-5.3/78-84]</p>	<p>February 24: CLASS 9 Reference [PHP:§5.4/84-94]</p>
<p>February 28: CLASS 10 More Reference [PHP:§§5.5-5.7/95-110]</p>	<p><u>March 3: NO CLASS!</u> <i>BREAK FROM ME</i></p>
<p>March 7: CLASS 11 General Quantifiers [PHP:§6.1/112-119]</p>	<p>March 10: CLASS 12 Quantification [PHP:§§6.2-6.4/120-130]</p>
<p>March 14: CLASS 13 Contexts [PHP:chap.7/132-136]</p>	<p>March 17: CLASS 14 Tense [PHP:§8.1/138-146]</p>
<p>March 21: CLASS 15 Aspect & Modality [PHP:§§8.2-8.3/146-158]</p>	<p>March 24: CLASS 18 [EXX-2 DUE] SEMANTICS RECAP [Q&A on PHP:chs.1-9]</p>
<p>March 28: CLASS 19 Pragmatics [PHP:ch.10/176-197]</p>	<p>March 31: CLASS 20 Speech Acts [READING:PRAG-1]</p>
<p>April 4: CLASS 21 Inference [PHP:ch.11/199-205]</p>	<p><u>April 7: NO CLASS!</u> <i>BREAK FROM ME</i></p>
<p>April 11: CLASS 22 Maxims [READING:PRAG-2]</p>	<p>April 14: CLASS 23 Formal Semantics [PHP:ch.12/206-217]</p>
<p><u>April 15-30: EASTER BREAK</u> <i>READING & PREPARATION</i></p>	<p>May 5: CLASS 24 COURSE REVIEW [Q&A ON ENTIRE COURSE]</p>
<p><u>March 22: CLASS 16-17 [WED: 10.00-13.00]</u> Propositional Attitudes [PHP:ch.9/161-175]</p>	<p><u>May 13: 9.00-12.00h</u> <i>IN-CLASS FINAL EXAM</i></p>