

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

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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.