

**Linguistics 788**  
**Semantics and Pragmatics II**  
**Fall 2019**

INSTRUCTOR: Douglas Wulf

CLASS LOCATION: Robinson Hall B, Room 204 CLASS TIME: W 7:20 - 10:00 PM

OFFICE: Robinson Hall B, Room 378-B OFFICE HOURS: T 1:00 - 2:00 PM and by appointment

E-MAIL: dwulf@gmu.edu

TEXTBOOK:

There is no textbook. Rather, a variety of journal articles will be distributed as readings.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course continues from LING 785 *Semantics and Pragmatics* and delves further into the study of meaning as part of linguistic theory. Various semantic phenomena in natural language are examined, to include tense and aspect properties of verbs, temporal ordering expressions, the syntax-semantics interface, thematic roles, and implicature.

PREREQUISITE:

LING 485 / 785 *Semantics and Pragmatics* or permission of instructor.

**SCHEDULE**  
**SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

<i>Class</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Readings for class</i>
1	W 8/28	Introduction	N/A
2	W 9/4	Aktionsarten; The Progressive Aspect <b>Journal #1 Due 24 Hours before class</b>	Readings on Aktionsarten
3	W 9/11	The Progressive Aspect <b>Journal #2 Due 24 Hours before class</b>	Readings on the progressive aspect
4	W 9/18	The Progressive Aspect; Exceptives <b>Journal #3 Due 24 Hours before class</b>	Readings on the progressive aspect
5	W 9/25	Exceptives; Temporal Ordering Relations <b>Journal #4 Due 24 Hours before class</b>	Readings on exceptive constructions
6	W 10/2	Special Topic (TBA)	TBA
7	W 10/9	Temporal Ordering Relations; Thematic Roles <b>Journal #5 Due 24 Hours before class</b>	Readings on <i>before</i> and <i>after</i>
8	W 10/16	Thematic Roles; Lattice-Theory <b>Journal #6 Due 24 Hours before class</b>	Readings on thematic roles
9	W 10/23	Lattice-Theory; Implicature <b>Journal #7 Due 24 Hours before class</b>	Readings on implicature
10	W 10/30	Implicature; Individual Topics <b>Journal #8 Due 24 Hours before class</b>	Readings on implicature
11	W 11/6	Implicature; Individual Topics <b>Journal #9 Due 24 Hours before class</b>	Book manuscript
12	W 11/13	Individual Topics; TBA <b>Journal #10 Due 24 Hours before class</b>	Independent Research N/A
*	W 11/20	NO CLASS - THANKSGIVING	Independent Research
13	W 11/27	Individual Topics; TBA	Independent Research
14	W 12/4	Individual Topics; TBA	Independent Research
*	W 12/11	<b>FINAL PAPER DUE</b>	

## GRADING POLICY

### JOURNAL POSTINGS (50%)

---

There will be ten weekly journal postings due 24 hours before class in which you will provide commentary on the readings. For some journals, you may also be given particular questions to answer or problems to solve. Each week's journal posting will serve in part as preparation for that week's class discussion on the readings.

### FINAL PAPER (50%)

---

You will produce a final paper on some topic of semantics and/or pragmatics based on your independent research on the topic. A starter bibliography for some paper topic options is provided on the following pages.

### NOTE ON ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

---

Students are reminded that the GMU Honor Code is expected to be followed. Cheating will be dealt with according to GMU guidelines. All work for the class must reflect your own honest academic efforts. If there is any confusion on a point of academic integrity, please do not hesitate to contact me and ask. The need to uphold honesty in academics should be of the greatest concern to us all. In particular, student papers must include proper citation.

## READINGS

### AKTIONSARTEN

---

Vendler, Zeno. 1957. Verbs and times. *The Philosophical Review* 66: 143–160. Reprinted in Zeno Vendler 1967. *Linguistics in Philosophy*. Ithaca, New York: Cornell University Press: 97-121.

### THE PROGRESSIVE ASPECT

---

Bennett, Michael and Barbara Partee. 1972. Towards the logic of tense and aspect in English. Manuscript. Printed with postscript in 1978 by Indiana University Linguistics Club and in *Compositionality in Formal Semantics: Selected Papers by Barbara H. Partee*. 2004: 59-109.

Dowty, David. 1979. *Word Meaning and Montague Grammar: The Semantics of Verbs and Times in Generative Semantics and in Montague's PTQ*. Dordrecht: D. Reidel: 133–163.

Landman, Fred. 1992. The progressive. *Natural Language Semantics* 1: 1–32.

Wulf, Douglas. 2009. Two new challenges for the modal account of the progressive. *Natural Language Semantics* 17: 205–218.

### EXCEPTIVE CONSTRUCTIONS

---

von Stechow, Kai. 1993. Exceptive constructions. *Natural Language Semantics* 1: 123-148.

Declerck, Renaat and Susan Reed. 2000. *Unless*. *Proceedings of NELS 22, GLSA, Univ. of Massachusetts*: 135-177.

### BEFORE AND AFTER

---

Heinämaa, Orvokki. 1972. Before. *Papers from the Eighth Regional Meeting, Chicago Linguistic Society*. Chicago, IL: Chicago Linguistic Society: 139-151.

Ogihara, Toshiyuki. 1995. Nofactual *before* and adverbs of quantification. *Proceedings from Semantics and Linguistic Theory V*, Ithaca, NY: DMLL Publications, Cornell University: 273-291.

Wulf, Douglas. 2013. Speech acts and the truth-conditional analysis of temporal expressions. *Philosophy Study* 3, 97-112.

## THEMATIC ROLES (SYNTAX/SEMANTICS INTERFACE)

---

Tenny, Carol. 1992. The aspectual interface hypothesis. In Ivan A. Sag and Anna Szabolcsi (Eds.), *Lexical Matters*. CSLI, Stanford University: 1-27.

Dowty, David. 1991. Thematic proto-roles and argument selection. *Language* 6: 547–619.

## IMPLICATURE

---

Grice, H. Paul. 1968/1975. Logic and conversation. *Studies in the Way of Words*.

Sadock, Jerrold. 1978. On testing for conversational implicature. In P. Cole (ed.) *Syntax and Semantics, Vol. 9, Pragmatics*. New York: Academic Press: 281–297.

Levinson, S. 1983. *Pragmatics*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Horn, Laurence. 1984. Toward a taxonomy for pragmatic inference: Q-based and R-based implicature. In D. Schrifin (ed.) *Meaning, Form and Use in Context*. Georgetown: Georgetown University Press: 11-42.

Wilson, Deirdre and Dan Sperber. 1986. Inference and implicature. In C. Travis (ed.) *Meaning and Interpretation*. Blackwell: 45–75.

## SPECIAL READING ON TENSE - BOOK MANUSCRIPT

---

A portion of my book manuscript! Enjoy!

## STARTER BIBLIOGRAPHY FOR SOME POSSIBLE PAPER TOPICS

### INTENSIONALITY AND MODALITY

---

Gamut, L. T. F. 1991. *Logic, Language, and Meaning, Volume II: Intensional Logic and Logical Grammar*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Kratzer, Angelika. 1991. Modality. In A. von Stechow and D. Wunderlich (eds.), *Semantics: An International Handbook of Contemporary Research*. Berlin: Walter de Gruyter.

von Fintel, Kai. 2006. Modality and language. In D. M. Borchert (ed.), *Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, 2nd Ed., MacMillan.

### GENERALIZED QUANTIFIER THEORY

---

Barwise, Jon and Robin Cooper. 1981. Generalized quantifiers and natural language. *Linguistics and Philosophy* 4: 159–219.

Van der Does, Jaap and Jan van Eijck. 1995. Basic quantifier theory. In J. van der Does and J. van Eijck (eds.), *Quantifiers, Logic, and Language*. CSLI: Stanford: 1–45.

Keenan, Edward. 1996. The semantics of determiners. In S. Lappin (ed.), *The Handbook of Contemporary Semantic Theory*. Malden, MA: Blackwell: 41–63.

### MORE ABOUT IMPLICATURE

---

Gazdar, Gerald. 1979. *Pragmatics: Implicature, Presupposition, and Logical Form*.

Chierchia, Gennaro. 2002. Scalar implicatures, polarity phenomena, and the syntax/pragmatics interface. In A. Belletti (ed.), *Structures and Beyond*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Sauerland, Uli. 2004. Scalar implicatures in complex sentences. *Linguistics and Philosophy* 27: 367–391.

### PRESUPPOSITION

---

Karttunen, Lauri. 1974. Presupposition and linguistic context. *Theoretical Linguistics* 1: 181–194.

Lewis, David. 1979. Scorekeeping in a language game. *Journal of Philosophical Logic* 8: 339–359.

Levinson, S. 1983. *Pragmatics*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Heim, Irene. 1988. On the projection problem for presuppositions. *Proceedings of the Second WCCFL*: 114–125.

Beaver, David. 1997. Presupposition. In J. van Bentham and A. ter Meulen (eds.), *Handbook of Logic and Language*. Elsevier: 939–1008.

Schlenker, P. 2007. Anti-dynamics: presupposition projection without dynamic semantics. *Journal of Logic, Language and Information* 16: 325–356.

### EVENT-TYPE (ASPECTUAL CLASSES)

---

Dowty, David. 1979. *Word Meaning and Montague Grammar: The Semantics of Verbs and Times in Generative Semantics and in Montague's PTQ*. Dordrecht: D. Reidel.

Bach, Emmon. 1984. The algebra of events. *Linguistics and Philosophy* 9: 5–16.

Krifka, Manfred. 1992. Nominal reference, temporal constitution, and quantification in event semantics. In R. Bartsch, J. van Bentham, and P. van Emde Boas (eds.), *Semantics and contextual expressions*, Dordrecht: Foris: 75–115.

Rothstein, Susan. 2004. *Structuring events*. Malden, MA: Blackwell.

## DAVIDSONIAN EVENT SEMANTICS

---

Parsons, Terence. 1990. *Events in the Semantics of English*. Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press.

Kratzer, Angelika. 1989. An investigation of the lumps of thought. *Linguistics and Philosophy* 12: 607–653.

## ADVERBIAL QUANTIFICATION

---

Lewis, David. 1975. Adverbs of quantification. In E. L. Keenan (ed.), *Formal Semantics of Natural Language*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press: 3-15.

Heim, Irene. 1982. *The Semantics of Definite and Indefinite Noun Phrases*. PhD dissertation, University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

Schwarzchild, Roger. 1989. Adverbs of quantification as generalized quantifiers. *Proceedings of NELS 19*. GLSA, Amherst: 193-268.

Berman, Stephen. 1987. Situation-based semantics for adverbs of quantification. In M. Crowhurst (ed.), *Proceedings of WCCFL 6*. Stanford.

Schubert, Lenhart and Francis J. Pelletier. 1989. Generically speaking, or, using discourse representation theory to interpret generics. In G. Chierchia, B. Partee, and R. Turner (eds.), *Properties, Types and Meanings, Volume II: Semantic Issues*. Dordrecht: Kluwer: 193-268.

de Swart, Henriëtte. 1991. *Adverbial Quantification: A Generalized Quantifier Approach*. New York: Garland.

## SEMANTICS OF INTERROGATIVE CLAUSES

---

Karttunen, Lauri. 1977. Syntax and semantics of questions. *Linguistics and Philosophy* 1: 3–44.

Groenendijk, Jeroen and Martin Stokhof. 1982. Semantic analysis of *wh*-complements. *Linguistics and Philosophy* 5: 175–233.

Higginbotham, James. 1993. Interrogatives. In K. Hale and S. J. Keyser (eds.), *The View from Building 20*. Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press.

Higginbotham, James. 1996. The semantics of questions. In S. Lappin (ed.), *The Handbook of Contemporary Semantic Theory*. Malden, MA: Blackwell: 361-383.