

## SYLLABUS FOR LSA.311 PRAGMATICS IN LINGUISTIC THEORY, SUMMER 2005

### LOGISTICS

**Course:** LSA.311 *Pragmatics in Linguistic Theory* (Summer 2005)

**Time:** Mondays & Wednesdays 10:10–11:50

**Room:** 32-124

**Instructor:** Kai von Fintel, 32-D884, 617.253.3228, [fintel@mit.edu](mailto:fintel@mit.edu)

**Teaching Assistant:** Raj Singh, 32-D774, 617.253.4429, [singhr@mit.edu](mailto:singhr@mit.edu)

**Office Hours:** M,W 12:30–2:00 (Kai in 32-D884), M 3–5 (Raj in 32-D774)

**Webpage:** <http://semantics-online.org/lsa311>

**E-Mail List:** [lsa311@mit.edu](mailto:lsa311@mit.edu)

If you're not already on the E-Mail List, please subscribe yourself at <https://mailman.mit.edu/mailman/listinfo/lsa311>.

Between class meetings, we will stay in touch through the E-Mail List and the course webpage. Please make sure to check your email regularly. Updates to the website will be announced via email. If you have an RSS-newsreader, you can tune in to the website via its XML feed at <http://semantics-online.org/lsa311/index.xml>.

You are strongly encouraged to contact us via email if you have any questions or thoughts about the material in this course. There are also regular office hours (use the sign-up sheet on the office door to make 15 or 30 minute appointments).

### BRIEF COURSE OVERVIEW

The label “pragmatics” covers a much wider and more heterogeneous set of linguistic phenomena and research traditions than we can attend to in this course. Even the few topics that we do address could each fill an entire course.

There are 12 course meetings. The course will be divided into 3 units with 4 course meetings each. We will cover three topics:

- Conversational Implicature
- Presupposition and Context Change
- Indexicality

In each unit, we will spend 2 or 3 meetings on developing basic concepts and formal tools. Then, in the final meeting(s) of each unit, we will introduce and discuss some current “cutting edge” work in the area.

#### PREREQUISITES

The course is appropriate for students interested in work in syntax/semantics and for students interested in the philosophy of language. We will presuppose technical material more or less on the level of Heim & Kratzer (1998), as well as familiarity with the possible-worlds semantics of modal and attitude constructions. You might find it profitable to look through our lecture notes on intensional semantics, available at <http://semantics-online.org/advsem/IntensionalSemantics.pdf>.

#### THE STRUCTURE OF THE COURSE

##### 1. Reading assignments.

There are quite a few readings for this class. These range from textbook chapters or handbook articles to very recent research manuscripts. Some of these are truly required reading and will be declared as such. Others are supplementary reading, of which you will want to read as much as possible. It would also be beneficial if you browse through the related literature and find things to write squibs about, and you should begin with that right away.

##### 2. Lecture Notes.

Following a class or a set of classes, I will often distribute some sort of lecture notes summarizing the discussion we had in class. You will want to read over these lecture notes, compare them to your own notes, and react if needed either via email or in class.

##### 3. Technical exercises.

Where warranted, I will make available technical exercises that will help you get deeper familiarity with technical tools.

##### 4. A squib.

As the final project for this class, you will write a squib. In the unmarked case, a squib consists of a critical discussion of some article (or group of related articles) which is relevant to the topics covered in this class. The squib should contain a clear and self-contained presentation of the main claims and arguments in the article, explain why and how they bear on issues discussed in class, and point out problems, possible amendments, extensions and applications. A short squib proposal is due on or before Friday, July 22. The squib itself is due on Friday August 5, the last day of the institute. The squib must be submitted electronically to [fintel@mit.edu](mailto:fintel@mit.edu).

## COURSE CALENDAR AND READING LIST

There is no course packet. All the readings are available electronically: freely on the web, or through the publisher when connected from MIT, or in a password-protected area of the course website. The username is “lsa311” and the password is “pragmatics”.

## I. IMPLICATURE

*June 27, 29: The Basics*

- GRICE, Paul: 1967. “Logic and Conversation.”. Published in GRICE, Paul: 1989. *Studies in the Way of Words*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, pp. 22–40.
- GAMUT, L. T. F.: 1991. *Logic, Language, and Meaning*. Chicago University Press, vol. 1, ch. 6 “Pragmatics: Meaning and Usage,” sections 6.1 to 6.8, pp. 195 – 212.
- HORN, Laurence R.: 2004. “Implicature.” In Laurence R. Horn & Gregory Ward (Editors) *The Handbook of Pragmatics*, pages 3–28. Blackwell. Free off-print <http://tinyurl.com/4xkfh>.

*Note:* No classes are held on Monday July 4th. Instead, there is an extra day of classes on Friday July 8.

*July 7: Advanced Topic: Embedded Implicatures*

- RECANATI, François: 2003. “Embedded Implicatures.” *Philosophical Perspectives*, 17(1): 299–332. doi:10.1111/j.1520-8583.2003.00012.x.
- CHIERCHIA, Gennaro: 2004. “Scalar Implicatures, Polarity Phenomena, and the Syntax/Pragmatics Interface.” In Adriana Belletti (Editor) *Structures and Beyond: The Cartography of Syntactic Structures, Volume 3*. Oxford University Press.
- SAUERLAND, Uli: 2004. “Implicatures in Complex Sentences.” *Linguistics & Philosophy*, 27(3): 367–391. doi:10.1023/B:LING.0000023378.71748.db.
- SAUERLAND, Uli: 2004. “On Embedded Implicatures.” URL <http://www.zas.gwz-berlin.de/mitarb/homepage/sauerland/journals/JCSimplicatures.pdf>. To appear in *Journal of Cognitive Science* 5.

## 2. PRESUPPOSITION AND CONTEXT CHANGE

Jul 8, 11, 13: *The Basics*

- STALNAKER, Robert: 1974. “Pragmatic Presuppositions.” In Milton Munitz & Peter Unger (Editors) *Semantics and Philosophy*, pages 197–213. New York University Press.
- HEIM, Irene: 1983. “On the Projection Problem for Presuppositions.” *West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics*, 2: 114–125.
- LEWIS, David: 1979. “Scorekeeping in a Language Game.” *Journal of Philosophical Logic*, 8: 339–359.

July 18: *Advanced Topic: Taxonomy of Triggers*

- HEIM, Irene: 1990. “Presupposition Projection.” URL <http://tinyurl.com/9d5jm>. Included in R. van der Sandt (ed.) *Presupposition, Lexical Meaning and Discourse Processes: Workshop Reader*, University of Nijmegen, 1990.
- VON FINTEL, Kai: 2000. “What is Presupposition Accommodation?” URL <http://web.mit.edu/fintel/www/accomm.pdf>. Ms, MIT.
- BEAVER, David & ZEEVAT, Henk: 2004. “Accommodation.” URL <http://montague.stanford.edu/~dib/Publications/accommodation.pdf>. To appear in Ramchand, G. and C. Reiss, *Oxford Handbook of Linguistic Interfaces*, Oxford University Press.
- ABUSCH, Dorit: 2005. “Triggering from Alternative Sets and Projection of Pragmatic Presuppositions.” URL <http://semanticsarchive.net/Archive/jJkYjM3O/Abusch-Triggering.pdf>. Ms, Cornell University.

## 3. INDEXICALITY

July 20, 25, 27: *The Basics*

- STALNAKER, Robert: 1970. “Pragmatics.” *Synthese*, 22(1-2): 272–289. doi:10.1007/BF00413603.
- KRIPKE, Saul A.: 1977. “Speaker’s Reference and Semantic Reference.” In Peter A. French, Theodore E. Uehling Jr., & Howard K. Wettstein (Editors) *Studies in the Philosophy of Language*, number 2 in Midwest Studies in Philosophy, pages 6–27. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.
- LEWIS, David: 1980. “Index, Context, and Content.” In Stig Kanger & Sven Öhman (Editors) *Philosophy and Grammar*. Dordrecht: Reidel.

*August 1: Advanced Topic: Monsters*

- SCHLENKER, Philippe: 2003. "A Plea for Monsters." *Linguistics & Philosophy*, 26(1): 29–120. doi:10.1023/A:1022225203544.
- ANAND, Pranav & NEVINS, Andrew: 2004. "Shifty Operators in Changing Contexts." URL <http://www.fas.harvard.edu/~lingdept/IndexicalityWorkshop/anandnevinso4.pdf>. SALT 14 Talk.

*August 3: Advanced Topic: Assessment-Relativity*

- MACFARLANE, John: 2003. "Epistemic Modalities and Relative Truth." URL <http://philosophy.berkeley.edu/macfarlane/epistmod.pdf>.
- VON STECHOW, Kai & GILLIES, Anthony S.: 2005. "Might Made Right." URL <http://mit.edu/fintel/www/might.pdf>. Ms, MIT and University of Michigan.

## LSA ADVERTISEMENTS

There is also a six week course on semantics: LSA.312 taught by Gennaro Chierchia.

There are a number of pragmatics-related three week courses:

- The Semantics and Pragmatics of Focus (LSA.129) – David Beaver
- Clause Typing: From Syntax to Discourse Semantics (LSA.203) – Paul Portner & Raffaella Zanuttini
- Scalar Implicatures and the Organization of Grammar (LSA.236) – Danny Fox
- Alternatives in Semantics (LSA.201) – Angelika Kratzer
- Pragmatics (LSA.214) – Bob Stalnaker

There is a one day workshop on Friday July 15 on Formal Pragmatics. More info at <http://semantics-online.org/lsacc>.