

# Semantics-Pragmatics Interface

1st session

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Goals: introduce ourselves and the topics of this course, and talk about the assignments we'll have.

## 1 Course information

- Dozentin: Elena Castroviejo Miró
- Angaben
  - Hauptseminar, 2SWS, benoteter Schein
  - Zeit und Ort: Mi 10:00 - 12:00, Seminarraum GK
- Studienfächer / Studienrichtungen
  - KL-MA-B2 ab 1
  - GER-MAG ab 4
  - DEU-L3 ab 4
  - L3-D-FW-4 ab 4
- Voraussetzungen / Organisatorisches
  - Voraussetzung: Besuch der Veranstaltungen Syntax 1 und Semantik 1 und Bereitschaft englische Fachtexte zu lesen
  - Leistungsnachweis: Regelmäßige Teilnahme, Referat und Hausarbeit
  - Abgabetermin für die Hausarbeit: 20.08.2009
- Inhalt

In this class we will deal with topics such as illocutionary force (how do different sentence types update the common ground?), information structure (in how many ways can a sentence with the same semantics contribute different meanings depending on the distribution of old and new information?) and levels of meaning (what are the properties of asserted, presupposed and implicated content?). By reading and discussing papers, we will become familiar with a variety of linguistic constructions, and we will learn what tools formal semantics and pragmatics provide us to approach them.

## 2 Contact information

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- Webpage: <http://user.uni-frankfurt.de/~castrovi>
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- Office hours: nach Vereinbarung (send me an email ;-)
- Where to find me:

**Graduiertenkolleg “Satzarten: Variation und Interpretation”**

Raum 028

Varrentrappstr. 40-42

60486 Frankfurt/M (opposite Adorno Platz)

[http://web.uni-frankfurt.de/fb10/grad\\_koll/index.htm](http://web.uni-frankfurt.de/fb10/grad_koll/index.htm)

## 3 Goals of this seminar

- Read papers that deal with topics relevant to the semantics-pragmatics interface.
- Identify the main arguments and crucial data that are behind the proposals made.
- Be able to discuss the claims defended in the papers.
- Get ready for more difficult papers.
- Resolve some doubts, but mainly come up with more puzzles.
- Learn/practice on how to present a linguistic talk.
- Become interested in this area of linguistics.

## 4 Contents of the course

1. The semantics-pragmatics interface: what is its role in the overall design of the faculty of language? What topics does it cover? How has it been approached so far?
2. Speech acts: semantics and context update potential.
3. Information structure: syntax-semantics-pragmatics interface.
4. Levels of meaning: asserted, presupposed and implicated content.

## 5 Calendar

15.04.09	22.04.09	29.04.09
06.05.09	13.05.09	20.05.09
27.05.09	03.06.09	10.06.09
17.06.09	24.06.09	01.07.09
08.07.09	15.07.09	

## 6 Resources

### o Handbooks

- von Heusinger and Turner (2006): *Where semantics meets pragmatics*. Amsterdam: Elsevier.
- Horn and Ward (2004): *The handbook of pragmatics*. Malden, MA: Blackwell.
- Lappin (1996): *The Handbook of Contemporary Semantic Theory*. Formal Semantics: The Essential Readings
- Partee, ter Meulen, and Wall (1990): *Mathematical Methods in Linguistics*. Dordrecht: Kluwer.
- Portner (2005): *What is Meaning?. Fundamentals of Formal Semantics*. Malden, MA: Blackwell.
- Portner and Partee (2002): *Formal Semantics: The Essential Readings*. Formal Semantics: The Essential Readings
- von Stechow and Wunderlich (1991): *Semantik. Ein internationales Handbuch zeitgenössischer Forschung*. Berlin/New York: Walter de Gruyter.
- ...

### o Dictionaries

- Cruse (2006): *A glossary of semantics and pragmatics*. Edinburgh University Press.
- Crystal (2008): *Dictionary of Linguistics and Phonetics*. Malden, MA: Wiley/Blackwell.
- Matthews (2007): *The Oxford Concise Dictionary of Linguistics*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Trask (1997): *A student's dictionary of Language and Linguistics*. London/New York: Arnold.

### o Web sites

- Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy: <http://plato.stanford.edu/>
- Professor Zimmermann's material for Semantik I-III: <http://web.uni-frankfurt.de/fb10/zimmermann/>
- Semantics archive: <http://www.semanticsarchive.net/>

- MIT OpenCourseWare, Semantics and Pragmatics:  
<http://ocw.mit.edu/OcwWeb/Linguistics-and-Philosophy/24-903Spring-2005/CourseHome/index.htm/>
- MIT OpenCourseWare, Pragmatics in Linguistic Theory:  
<http://ocw.mit.edu/OcwWeb/Linguistics-and-Philosophy/24-954Fall-2006/CourseHome/index.htm/>
- Yoad Winter’s course reader “Elements of compositional semantics”:  
<http://www.cs.technion.ac.il/winter/papers/course-reader-ESSLLI2007-Winter.pdf/>

## 7 Participation

- Come to class every day.
- Present one paper.
- Share your thoughts in class.

## 8 Assignments

- Read the paper well in advance, so you can estimate its degree of difficulty.
- Come see me if you want us to go over the paper together.
- Use either a handout or slides for your presentation.
- Follow the guidelines I will provide you, so we make sure you cover what is essential.
- Show the handout/slides draft to me before you present, so we can polish it a bit.

## 9 Last but not least

- We make this seminar together: we count on each other, we learn from each other, each contribution is important.
- If you believe you cannot make it (for whatever reason), let me know a week in advance or else the class will have to be canceled.

## References

- Cruse, A. (2006). *A glossary of semantics and pragmatics*. Edinburgh University Press.
- Crystal, D. (2008). *A dictionary of linguistics and phonetics*. Malden, MA: Blackwell.
- Horn, L. and G. Ward (2004). *The handbook of pragmatics*. Malden: Blackwell.
- Lappin, S. (1996). *The Handbook of Contemporary Semantic Theory*. Malden, MA: Blackwell.

- Matthews, P. (2007). *The Oxford Concise Dictionary of Linguistics*. Oxford University Press.
- Partee, B., A. ter Meulen, and R. Wall (1990). *Mathematical Methods in Linguistics*. Malden, MA: Kluwer.
- Portner, P. (2005). *What is meaning?* Blackwell.
- Portner, P. and B. Partee (2002). *Formal Semantics: The Essential Readings*. Malden: Blackwell.
- Trask, R. L. (1997). *A Student's Dictionary of Language and Linguistics*. London/New York: Arnold.
- von Heusinger, K. and K. Turner (2006). *Where Semantics meets pragmatics*. Oxford, UK: Elsevier.
- von Stechow, A. and D. Wunderlich (1991). *Semantik. Ein internationales Handbuch zeitgenössischer Forschung*. Berlin/New York: Walter de Gruyter.