

ENG 554: English Language in Use

Spring Semester 2019

Location: *Main (Old University) Campus, Room A109*

Tue/Fri (3:00pm-4:30pm)

Instructor: Natalia Pavlou

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Office hours:

Tue/Fri 10:30am-11:30am, 1:30pm-2:30pm & by appt.

Location: Room M106

Course Description

Overview:

This course will explore the core issues in pragmatics and those aspects of the meaning of utterances which cannot necessarily be accounted for by straightforward reference to the truth conditions of the sentences uttered. When sentences are uttered in a particular context, they usually convey more than what their truth-conditions convey and as part of the linguistic theory, pragmatics studies these cases. When some aspect of meaning has a contextual effect, the constraints on context-sensitive expressions abolish the idea of a 'pragmatic wastebasket' and accounts that can't explain grammar in a scientifically interesting way. This course will provide an introduction to central topics in pragmatics by reading and discussing in depth some original literature in these areas and students will benefit from these discussions by discussing their observations, counterexamples and criticisms tied to the specific readings.

Course Objectives

At the completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Indicate usages of pragmatics and provide definitions of the field that characterize the scope of it
- Illustrate some basic kinds of pragmatic phenomena and explore their properties
- Identify linguistic investigations that make necessary reference to aspects of the context covering the identities of participants, the temporal and spatial parameters and intentions of the participants in the speech event and much besides.
- Read scientific papers and critically evaluate their arguments and discussion

Course Details

Grade Distribution

Online Responses.....	20%
Paper presentation.....	20%
Final Paper.....	50%
Class participation.....	10%

Online Responses

You will be able to find the assigned readings every week on Blackboard. There will also be an online discussion board on Blackboard for you to post your thoughts, response, criticism, or questions about ONE of the papers of the week. Overall, you are required to post short comments for 10 papers. Late posting won't be accepted. Your response will count towards 20% of your final grades (2% each). An instruction on how to write your weekly response is on Blackboard.

Paper Presentation

Every student will have to present a paper assigned to them. Depending on the number of students in the class, we may have one or more than one students presenting every week.

Final Paper

You will need to decide on a research question (related to any of the topics covered in this class) for your final project. The final paper should be between 8-10 pages, double-spaced (**due final exam date, by 11:59pm**).

Attendance/Participation

Attendance in lectures is obligatory and a continuous effort to participate in the discussion will be rewarded with 10% of your final grade.

Classroom Etiquette

Students have an obligation to their classmates and instructor to behave in such a manner as to enhance the learning environment. Please do not engage in behavior which disrupts class or otherwise detracts from the ability of your fellow students to learn. Such behaviors include arriving at class late, leaving before class is dismissed, speaking while others are speaking, reading magazines in class, cell-phones ringing etc.

Textbook

The recommended textbook is **Levinson, S. C. 1983. Pragmatics. Cambridge Textbooks in Linguistics**. There will also be weekly readings posted on Blackboard.

Tentative Schedule

The schedule on the syllabus is subject to change. Changes, if any, will be announced in class.

	Wk.	<i>Tuesday/Friday</i>
1	14/1-18/1	Logic and Conversation Grice 1975, Levinson 1983 (ch 1), Bach 1999
2	21/1-25/1	Pragmatic scales Hirschberg 1985 (ch 2,3), Levinson 1983 (ch 3), Matsumoto 1995
3	28/1-1/2	The Grammatical View of Scalar Implicatures Chierchia et al. 2008, Fox 2014, Geurts & Pouscoulous 2009
4	4/2-8/2	Explicature Horn 1992, Carston and Hall 2012
5	11/2-15/2	Modal Domains Chierchia 2006, Alonso-Ovalle & Benito 2010
6	18/2-22/2	Quantifier Domain Restriction Stanley & Szábo 2000, von Stechow 1994 (ch 2)
7	25/2-1/3	Experimental investigations of implicature Papafragou & Mousolinos 2001, Noveck 2001
8	4/3-8/3	Presupposition Levinson 1983 (ch 4), Karttunen 1974
9	11/3-15/3	The projection problem Heim 1983, Soames 1982
10	18/3-22/3	Presupposition of complex sentences Karttunen 1973, Heim 1992
11	25/3-29/3	Presupposition Accommodation Beck 2006, von Stechow 2008
12	1/4-5/4	Experimental investigations of presupposition Cummins et al. 2012, Chemia 2012
13	8/4-12/4	Pragmatics and Sociolinguistics in Social Deixis Levinson 1983 (ch 2), Levinson 1979
14	15/4-19/4	Review