

Course Title	Topics in Semantics and Pragmatics				
Course Code	ENG 256-259				
Course Type	Compulsory for Linguistics / Elective for Literature and Translation				
Level	Undergraduate				
Year / Semester	2 nd year				
Teacher's Name	Phoevos Panagiotidis				
ECTS	5	Lectures / week	2	Laboratories / week	N/A
Course Purpose and Objectives	<p>The series discusses how meaning is how narrow meaning built and represented (Semantics) and how communication is achieved by putting meaning within context (Pragmatics). The courses offer the necessary formal tools and methods to analyse language meaning at word and sentence level; it also discusses actual accounts and analyses for various aspects of meaning such as entailment, truth and meaning, denotation and reference, predication, and quantification. The series also includes an introduction to the ways language in use is studied and how inference and context turn language into a powerful and nuanced communication tool.</p>				
Learning Outcomes	<p>The series aims to enable the students to familiarise themselves with and understand basic logic (propositional calculus, predicate calculus, lambda calculus, Generalised Quantifier Theory) in order to use it as metalanguage, a tool to represent and analyse language meaning. It also trains them to work with formulas in order to analyse language meaning, and familiarises them with concepts such as inference, meaning postulates, truth conditional semantics, the sense-reference distinction, the notion of quantification etc. The students are expected to develop the ability to recognise the content of encoding (and narrow meaning) and inferential interpretation, as well as the interaction between them. The series also trains students to analyse word meaning, predicative and referential expressions, to abstractly represent the sense of linguistic expressions, and to provide coherent inference-theoretic account of communicative situations and the interaction between utterances and the context.</p>				
Prerequisites	ENG 160, ENG 161, ENG 240	Required	N/A		
Course Content	<p><i>An indicative list of topics covered by this cluster of courses includes:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Philosophy of Language; Theories of Meaning; Formal Logic.</i> ▪ <i>Semantics: Concepts, methods, analyses.</i> ▪ <i>Inferential Pragmatics and the context.</i> ▪ <i>Language, Communication, Literature.</i> 				
Teaching Methodology	<p>Focus is placed on training students in formal logic, on familiarising them with how meaning is studied on the levels of the word and of the proposition, on entailment and the sense/reference distinction, on the richness of semantic representations and the nature of implicates, and on the role of context and inference in communication. This is achieved through continual interaction between theory and exercises.</p>				
Bibliography	<p>Semantics / Kate Kearns Semantics in generative grammar / Irene Heim and Angelika Kratzer Introduction to natural language semantics / Henriette de Swart Meaning in language: an introduction to semantics and pragmatics / D. Alan Cruse Pragmatics / George Yule Pragmatics: a reader / edited by Steven Davis Understanding utterances / Diane Blakemore.</p>				
Assessment	Class participation, 2-3 Quizzes, 1 final examination				

Language

English