

LING/PHIL 211

Meaning In Language

Professor: Dr. Heidi Harley

T.A.s: Sarah Longstaff?

TBA

Office: Douglass 208E

Phone: (520) 626-3554

Phone: 621-2796

Email: hharley@u.arizona.edu

Email: sarahl@u.arizona.edu

Office Hours: Tuesdays 9:30-10:30

or by appointment -- email or call.

Course Web Page: <http://w3.arizona.edu/~ling/hh/211/>

Course description: In this course we investigate the ways in which language is used to communicate meaning. The study of meaning in language is called *semantics*; this course will be an introduction to semantics. Language is only one of many communicative devices that humans use, but it is by far the most versatile and complex, enabling us to encode and transmit many meanings that are beyond the scope of any other organism. We will explore the ways in which we use language to encode meaning, from the most basic notions of sentence meaning and propositional logic to niceties of conversational implication. It's an enormous field of study. Since we'll just touch on many topics which are worth a course in themselves, this course will be something of a survey.

Course requirements:

In-Class Quizzes: 50%

(Every Thursday, more or less)

Topic for squib (short paper) 2%

(Due October 25)

Draft of squib: 10%

(Due November 13)

Final squib: 38%

10 weekly in-class quizzes: 50%

- On Thursdays, I will give you a list of questions, which may be short-answer, multiple choice, or problem solving, pertaining to the material we have covered/are about to cover in the week ahead.
- The following Thursday, the first 20 minutes of class will be spent taking a quiz which will consist of a selection of the questions taken from the list I gave you on Thursday.
- There will be no quiz in the first week of semester (after the first class!), the week before your short draft is due, the week before Thanksgiving or the week before your final draft is due.

Squib topic: 2%. (Due October 25)

To help you get rolling on your short paper in plenty of time, you will have to select a topic and clear it with me or a T.A. by Oct 25.

Squib draft: 10%: (Due November 13)

Approximately 3/4 of the way through the semester, you will hand in a draft of a short paper discussing some issue or question that has come up in class, or that interests you. This draft will be returned to you with comments and suggestions for improvement.

Minimum length of draft: 4 pages, double-spaced, using a non-bolded, 12 pt. font

Final squib: 38%: (Due December 6)

This should be the revised and enlarged final version of your draft. If you would like the final paper returned to you with comments, you should indicate that on the front page when you hand it in. You will be able to pick them up from my office in the linguistics department during finals week.

Minimum length of final paper: 5 pages, same format requirements as above.

The Fine Print:

Policy on late work: If your paper is late without making a prior arrangement with me, you will lose 5 per cent of your paper grade for every day late. After 8 days (40 per cent), you're down to a *maximum* grade of D. That means that, after 8 days, if your paper isn't absolutely perfect, it'll fail (and no paper is ever absolutely perfect).

Policy on missing quizzes: If you're unavoidably going to miss a Thursday quiz class for some legitimate reason, contact me **beforehand** to arrange a make-up time. If you miss it without contacting me, you will need a doctor's note or equivalent explaining your absence to be allowed to take a make-up.

Policy on cheating, plagiarism: I'll fail you in the course, and contemplate initiating other disciplinary procedures, up to and including recommending expulsion and criminal proceedings. Please note: working together to solve problems (e.g. for the quizzes) is not cheating. Handing in word-for-word the same answer that someone else wrote (i.e. copying) is cheating. Plagiarism includes failing to indicate your source for a piece of text, some information or an analysis that you got from somewhere else, e.g. a book, an article, a magazine, the Web, another classmate or teacher, etc.

Textbook:

"Meaning in Language: An Introduction to Semantics and Pragmatics," by Alan Cruse.