
Semantics

LING 415/3.0 - Syllabus (Tentative: to be revised)

Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures

Winter 2021

Instructor: Charlotte Reinholtz
Email: c.reinholtz@queensu.ca
Class meetings: Monday 11:30-1:00 & Thursday 1:00-2:30 via Zoom at this link: <LINK>.
Drop-in hours: Tuesday 2:00-4:00, or by appointment. Office hours work on a drop-in basis, and will be held via Zoom at this link: <LINK>.

Remote Course Design

As you know, Winter 2021 course will be offered remotely. This course will have a combination of ‘live’ class meetings held via **Zoom**, and online course materials which you can access at any time via the onQ course website.

There will be two ‘live’ class meetings every week, held via Zoom at this link: <LINK>. They will take place in **our timetabled slot (Monday 11:30-1:00 & Thursday 1:00-2:30)**, but will usually last 40-50 minutes to minimize “Zoom fatigue”. All ‘live’ class meetings will be recorded and made available on the onQ course website.

Everyone is expected to attend ‘live’ class meetings. You will be responsible for material covered in these meetings. If you are prevented from attending ‘live’ class meetings, you will need to watch the recorded sessions (available on the onQ course website).

The schedule of activities for each week will follow the same basic schedule:

1. ‘Live’ Lecture and Q&A meeting: **Monday**.
2. Weekly Check-in Survey: due **Tuesday** evening.
3. Weekly Workshop Exercises: prepare for **Thursday**.
4. ‘Live’ Workshop meeting: **Thursday**.
5. Materials for next week: Posted every **Friday**.

Weekly Overview & Schedule: Each week, there will be a topic overview and schedule of activities for the week (posted **Friday** of the preceding week).

Discussion Board: There will be a discussion board where you can talk to each other about anything relating to the course. I will drop in from time to time to respond to any questions.

Links & resources: There will also be a Links & Resources section on the course website which provides relevant links and resources.

Course Description

This course provides a foundation in Semantics, the study of natural language meaning. What kinds of meaning do natural languages encode? How do they do this? And how do semanticists represent sentence meaning? These are questions that we will explore looking at 10 core areas in the study of natural language meaning: Logic and Predication, Logical Quantifiers, Modality, Generalized Quantifiers, Definite Descriptions, Referential Opacity, Aspectual Classes of Events, Tense and Viewpoint Aspect, Thematic Roles, and Events.

Prerequisite

LING 340/3.0 or permission of the Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures.

Required Textbook

Kearns, Kate. 2011. *Semantics*. St. Martin's Press. (You need the second edition!)

Learning Outcomes

At the end of this course students should be able to:

- Explain, apply and discuss fundamental concepts in semantics.
- Independently determine the semantic content of sentences.
- Write logical formulae representing sentence meaning.
- Critically evaluate and discuss a selection of semantic approaches covered in readings and class.

Grading Method

All components of this course will receive numerical percentage marks. The final grade you receive for the course will be derived by converting your numerical course average to a letter grade according to [Queen's Official Grade Conversion Scale](#).

Grading Scheme:	COMPONENTS	WEIGHT
	Assignments (3 best out of 4)	65%
	Final Take-home Exam	30%
	Check-in Surveys	3%
	Participation	2% (+1% bonus)

Course Requirements

1. Readings

Every week, there will be an assigned reading from the textbook. Do a quick first read before Monday. Bring any questions you have to the 'live' lecture and Q&A session on Monday (or drop in for a visit during office hours). Then read a second time.

2. 'Live' class meetings

Every week, there will be two 'live' class meetings: (1) a 'live' lecture and Q&A session on the week's topic; (2) a 'live' workshop with small group work on the week's workshop exercises, followed by full class discussion of exercise answers and Q&A session. You will be responsible for the material covered in these meetings.

Everyone is expected to participate in 'live' class meetings provided that they have sufficient internet connection and are located in Ontario (or a reasonably close time zone).

If you are not able to attend 'live' class meetings you will need to watch the recorded meetings (available via the onQ course website).

3. *Weekly Check-in Surveys*

Every week, there will be a brief check-in survey (quiz format) of material covered that week. The purpose of the survey is to check for points that need follow-up in upcoming class meetings. The survey will usually ask what you found most/least clear, and what questions you have. There may also be questions about a particular concept or phenomenon covered that week.

Surveys will usually be evaluated for completion only. However, if you give extremely minimal responses, this may be factored into your final Participation grade.

4. *Workshop Exercises*

Every week, there will be a set of workshop exercises with questions and/or problems that apply concepts, method, and tools of analysis covered in the assigned reading. The purpose of the exercises is to prepare you to tackle questions and problems in upcoming written work.

You should plan to prepare answers to the workshop exercises before the 'live' workshop on Thursday. Get as far as you can. Then bring your answers to the Workshop meeting.

5. *Assignments*

There will be four written assignments. Submission is electronic and closes Thursday evening, the week they are due (see Course Calendar). All assignments should be submitted electronically as PDF documents. Handwritten, scanned submissions will not be accepted.

Assignments are individual pieces of work (not group work), and carry 65% of your grade. The lowest assignment grade will be dropped when your overall assignment grade is calculated.

6. *Final Take-home Exam*

There will be a final take-home exam (due Apr 15). This should be submitted electronically as a PDF document. Handwritten, scanned submissions will not be accepted. Like the assignments, the final take-home exam is an individual piece of work (not group work). It carries 30% of your grade.

7. *Participation*

Participation refers to your active engagement in the course material and activities, AND your interaction with me and other students in this course. This includes: doing the weekly reading and workshop exercises, meeting with me during office hours, completing the weekly survey, and active engagement and relevant contributions to class discussions.

Participation by itself carries 2% of your grade. In addition, regular, consistent and active participation throughout the course may earn a 1% bonus to your overall course grade.

Course Policies

Late Policy

If you need an extension on an assignment, you should contact me at least one day before the assignment is due. You will need to confirm the extension we agree on.

Important: I cannot accept late assignments after feedback has been provided to the class.

Contacting Me

During drop-in office hours, you can reach me via Zoom at the following link: <LINK>. Outside office hours, you can reach me by email.

To balance work and other parts of life during this Fall 2020 remote teaching term, I ask that you keep communications with me to weekday working hours: Monday to Friday between 8:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. I usually respond to emails within 24 hours (except late Friday emails).

Email

The use of your official Queen's University email is required for all email exchanges in this course. Begin your subject line with "LING 330", and please give your full name.

Recordings of 'live' lectures - Privacy Policy

Please keep in mind that recordings of 'live' lectures are not public and should not be shared. Under no circumstances should they be posted online or otherwise shared with anyone not registered in this LING 330 Morphology course (Fall 2020).

Also note that when you participate in 'live' class meetings, you can use voice only if you prefer. You can also use video and obscure the background of the space where you are sitting. I will explain how to do this when we have our first 'live' class meeting.

A Fact sheet on Privacy and Remote Teaching and Learning may be found at <https://www.queensu.ca/accessandprivacy/Privacy-and-Remote-Teaching-and-Learning> . Contained within the Fact Sheet is a link to a set of FAQs on Recording online classes and meetings to show how to use Zoom and Teams/MS Stream in a privacy-protective way: <https://www.queensu.ca/accessandprivacy/faqs>

Notice of Recording

Synchronous (live) classes will be delivered in this course through Zoom, a video conferencing platform supported by the University. Steps have been taken by the University to configure this platform in a secure manner. 'Live' class meetings - but not group discussions! - will be recorded with video and audio (and transcription if this turns out to be required by anyone) and will be made available to students in this course for the duration of the term. The recordings may capture your name, image or voice through the video and audio recordings. By attending these live classes, you are consenting to the collection of this information for the purposes of administering the class and associated coursework. If you are concerned about the collection of your name and other personal information in the class, please contact the course instructor to identify possible alternatives.

To learn more about how your personal information is collected, used and disclosed by Queen's University, please see the general [Notice of Collection, Use and Disclosure of Personal Information](#).

Copyright of Course Materials

This LING 330 Morphology syllabus (Fall 2020) by Charlotte Reinholtz is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 3.0 License](#). Materials generated by the instructor of this course, may not be posted to commercial course material sites without permission. However, they may be used and adapted, **with attribution**, for noncommercial purposes. For more information, visit <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/3.0/>.

Disability Accommodations

Queen's University is committed to achieving full accessibility for persons with disabilities. Part of this commitment includes arranging academic accommodations for students with disabilities to ensure they have an equitable opportunity to participate in all of their academic activities. If you are a student with a disability and think you may need accommodations, you are strongly encouraged to contact Student Wellness Services (SWS) and register as early as possible. For more information, including important deadlines, please visit the [Student Wellness Website](#).

The resources of the Queen's Learning Commons and Student Wellness Services are available to all students (whether or not they are registered for Disability Accommodations).

I would also encourage all of you to contact me if there are any circumstances that may affect your participation in the course. This could be personal, related to physical or mental health, or arising from issues in your family or personal life. The sooner you contact me, the earlier we can discuss what adjustments to the coursework may be possible to accommodate your circumstances.

Academic Consideration for Students in Extenuating Circumstances

The Senate Policy on Academic Consideration for Students in Extenuating Circumstances (accessible at the [Student Wellness Services website](#)) was approved in April, 2017. Queen's University is committed to providing academic consideration to students experiencing extenuating circumstances that are beyond their control and which have a direct and substantial impact on their ability to meet essential academic requirements. Each Faculty has developed a protocol to provide a consistent and equitable approach in dealing with requests for academic consideration for students facing extenuating circumstances. Arts and Science undergraduate students can find the Faculty of Arts and Science protocol and the portal where they submit a request through the [Queen' Arts & Science Academic Consideration and Accommodation web page](#). Students in other Faculties and Schools should refer to the protocol for their home Faculty.

Academic Integrity

Queen's students, faculty, administrators and staff all have responsibilities for supporting and upholding the fundamental values of academic integrity. Academic integrity is constituted by the five core fundamental values of honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility (see www.academicintegrity.org) and by the quality of courage. These values and qualities are central

to the building, nurturing and sustaining of an academic community in which all members of the community will thrive. Adherence to the values expressed through academic integrity forms a foundation for the "freedom of inquiry and exchange of ideas" essential to the intellectual life of the University.

Students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with and adhering to the regulations concerning academic integrity. General information on academic integrity is available at this link: [Integrity@Queen's University](#), along with Faculty or School specific information. Departures from academic integrity include, but are not limited to, plagiarism, use of unauthorized materials, facilitation, forgery and falsification. Actions which contravene the regulation on academic integrity carry sanctions that can range from a warning, to loss of grades on an assignment, to failure of a course, to requirement to withdraw from the university.

Acknowledgement of Territory

Queen’s University is situated on Traditional Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee Territory. In acknowledging this land, we seek to rebuild right relations with First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples, to learn from them, and to live on this land with respect and gratitude for its bounty.

Technology

Web Browsers

onQ performs best when using the most recent version of the web browsers, Chrome or Firefox. Safari and Edge are strongly discouraged as these web browsers are known to cause issues with onQ.

Internet Speed

While wired internet connection is encouraged, we recognize that students may be relying on a wireless connection. A minimum download speed of 10 Mbps and up to 20 Mbps for multimedia is recommended. To test your internet speed, click this link: <https://www.speedtest.net/>. For technology support ranging from setting up your device and issues with onQ to installing software, contact ITS Support Centre at this link: <https://www.queensu.ca/its/itsc>.

Course Calendar: to appear in final, revised syllabus.

.....