Meaning in Language (21521)

Degree: Applied Languages
Year: third
Term: second
ECTS credits: 4
Student workload: 100
Course type: Compulsory
GG Teacher: Enric Vallduví (enric.vallduvi@upf.edu, office 53.714)
Language of instruction: English

1. Course presentation

This course is an introduction to the study of meaning in language. The student will become familiar with the most fundamental aspects of word and phrasal meaning and how these combine with context to yield a full interpretation for a sentence, as well as with some basic patterns of cross-linguistic similarities and differences in the way meaning is encoded in language. Finally, the student will learn develop some formal techniques for the analysis of meaning.

2. Skills to be developed

General skills (G) and specific skills (E):

- Analysis and problem solving: To be able to propose the best analysis of a semantic or pragmatic phenomenon given some set of theoretical concepts and specific methods (G02).
- Application of theoretical knowledge to practical cases: To be able to apply theoretical concepts and knowledge about semantics and pragmatics to the analysis of new data (G17).
- Motivation for quality: To be better able to recognize different degrees of precision in the analysis of data and to develop a sense of the importance of formulating descriptions and analyses with maximal precision (G19).
- Ability to reflect on the functioning of language: To be able to distinguish between the respective roles of semantics and pragmatics in linguistic communication (E09).

3. Contents

- Sentences, utterances and propositions
- Referential expressions and predication
- Sense relations
- Propositional logic
- Word meaning and compositionality of meaning
- Meaning and context
- Interpersonal meaning and inference. Metaphoric meaning.
4. Evaluation and reassessment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Weight towards grade</th>
<th>Can / Cannot be made up</th>
<th>Weight towards grade</th>
<th>Form of the make-up</th>
<th>Prerequisites and observations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Task 1 in class</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Cannot be made up</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td></td>
<td>(2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Task 2 in class</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Cannot be made up</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<td>(2)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final (1)</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>Can be made up</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>Final (1)</td>
<td>A grade of 5/10 on final must be scored to pass course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regular class work/ homework</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>Cannot be made up</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td></td>
<td>Regular submission of work is taken into account (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attendance / participation</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>Cannot be made up</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td></td>
<td>(2)</td>
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</tbody>
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(1) Whenever the exam score is less than 5/10, then the final mark for the course will be precisely this exam score (even if the weighted average of all the evaluation activities is higher than 5/10).

(2) Whenever the exam is not passed at regular assessment time, the scores obtained during term time on the other evaluation activities will be reused at reassessment and will account for 50% of final mark (if the reassessment exam is passed). Evaluation activities not done or submitted during term time will be assigned zero points.

Plagiarism will not be tolerated. The use of any study materials during tasks and exams is not allowed, unless explicitly permitted. Any task or exam affected by plagiarism or where unlawful use of study materials has taken place will be awarded zero points. If plagiarism is suspected, we will let you know.

5. Methodology

The course is organized in the following way:

- 1 large group session/week; 1 seminar/week
- Reading: An average of 2 hours/week. You will be expected to do the required reading before the class in which it is discussed.
- Regular class work and homework: There will be weekly exercises, the role of which is to give you the opportunity to make sure you understand the concepts and techniques that are discussed in class, as well as to prepare you for the tasks and exam. Class work of this type will be ordinarily done in the seminar sessions.

The large group sessions will consist in the presentation and discussion of the concepts and methods that are necessary to understand the readings and do the assessable activities. The seminar sessions will be mainly devoted to discussing the weekly exercises. Active participation of the student is essential in both types of classes, but especially in the seminars. The work to be done outside of class will mainly consist of the weekly readings and also exercises.

6. Essential bibliography

6.1. Core references
Obligatory reading:

Other:

6.2. Additional references