



Course Descriptor
ENGL301 Semantics & Pragmatics

Proposed Academic Year	FALL 2021-22	Last Reviewed Academic Year	
Course Code	ENGL301	Course Title	Semantics & Pragmatics
Credit hours	3	Level of study	Undergraduate
College / Centre	College of Arts and Humanities	Department	Education Department
Co-requisites	None	Pre-requisites	None

1. COURSE OUTLINE

This course looks at the study of meaning in human languages, namely in terms of grammatical semantics and pragmatics. In grammatical semantics, students will be introduced to different approaches of studying meaning. First, by focusing on the literal meaning and how patterns of meaning are organized within a language in terms of sound structure, grammatical structure and meaning structure. Secondly, by questioning how language allows us to communicate, how we use linguistic expressions to communicate our understanding of the world etc...

Students will also be introduced to basic concepts of pragmatics and how context contributes to meaning in studying language use. The topics in the course include mainly Speech Act theory presupposition, cooperative principles, and language politeness.

2. AIMS

The course aims to:

- Introduce students to different approaches of studying meaning.
- Equip students with necessary skills to illustrate core concepts in the study of meaning.
- Enable students to critically analyze naturally occurring language.
- Familiarize students with basic concepts related to pragmatics.

3. LEARNING OUTCOMES, TEACHING, LEARNING and ASSESSMENT METHODS



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Learning Outcomes <i>(Definitive)</i> Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:	Teaching and Learning methods <i>(Indicative)</i>	Assessment <i>(Indicative)</i>
1. Demonstrate how thought, concepts and meaning are connected.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lectures • Course materials • Assignments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internal class tests • Quizzes
2. Illustrate core concepts in the study of meaning.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group Discussions • Counseling • Class activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation • Exams
3. Examine the types of meaning (e.g. semantic and pragmatic meaning) that arise in naturally occurring language data.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Writing assignments • Homework • Conducting Quizzes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In term Exams • Individual - Presentations
4. Analyse naturally occurring language.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online updates • Seminars 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In term Exams • Individual presentations
5. Appraise the ways in which speakers use language for particular social functions beyond the literal meaning of the expressions they use.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Counseling • Lectures • Guidance & Support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student Counseling • Assessment and feedback
	All teaching and learning methods should utilize e-learning facilities to, further, boost the delivery of the course. Moodle has already been used in teaching	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •



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	and learning, since 2017. Microsoft teams has been used during the breakout of covid 19 pandemic and will continue to be used after the pandemic if online classes are scheduled.	
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4. ASSESSMENT WEIGHTING

Assessment	Percentage of final mark (%)
Quizzes	10
Assignment	10
Class discussion	10
Participation	10
Midterm	20
Final Exam	40
TOTAL	100%

5. ACHIEVING A PASS

Students will achieve **3** credit hours for this course by passing **ALL** of the course assessments [*alternatively, list the compulsory pass assessments**] and achieving a **minimum overall score of 50%**

NB *Ensure that ALL learning outcomes are taken into account

6. COURSE CONTENT (Indicative)

LECTURE TOPIC	TIME (HOURS)
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1. Introduction to the course	3
2. Introduction to Meaning	3
3. Meaning in linguistics	3
4. Word (Lexical) meaning	3
5. Sentence meaning	3
6. Sentences and truth	3
7. Meaning and context.	3
8. Meaning and context.	3
9. Functions of language	3
10. Context Analysis in Linguistics	3
11. Speech Acts theory	3
12. Cooperative Principles and Implicature	3
13. Language Politeness	3
14. Research topics in Pragmatics: Discussion	3
15. Revision	3
TOTAL HOURS	45
Plus RECOMMENDED INDEPENDENT STUDY HOURS	90
TOTAL COURSE HOURS	135

7. RECOMMENDED READING

Core text/s:



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John I. Saeed. (2008). Semantics. Wiley-Blackwell ISBN-13: 9781405156394; 3rd edition
Roberts, Craige (1996/2012) Information Structure in Discourse: Towards an Integrated Formal Theory of Pragmatics. In Jae Hak Yoon and Andreas Kathol (eds.) Ohio State University Working Papers in Linguistics Volume 49. Reprinted in the 1998 version with a new Afterword in Semantics and Pragmatics, Volume 5, 2012.

Library + online resources:



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