

Syllabus

Faculty **Arts and Sciences**
Department **English Language and Literature**
Semester **Spring 2020**
Academic Year **2019-2010**

Course Name **Formal Semantics**
Course Numer **0102419**

Each student shall receive a copy of the syllabus to be kept for future reference.

1. Instructor Information

1. Instructor: Dr. Abdel-Rahman H. Abu Helal
2. Office: Building B, B319
3. Office Telephone: n/a
4. Email: aabuhelal@meu.edu.jo
(alternatively use E-learning for correspondence)
5. Office Hours: Sat: 01:00 p.m -04:00 p.m
Sun/Tue:02:00 p.m-03:00 p.m
Mon/Wed: 1:00 p.m - 3:00 p.m

2. Course Details

1. Meeting Times: Sun/ Tue: 12:30 p.m- 02:00 p.m
2. Location: B015
3. Course Laboratory (if any): N/A

3. Sources and References

1. Required Readings:

Irene Heim and Angelika Kratzer, *Semantics in Generative Grammar*, Blackwell, 1998

2. Additional Readings:

supplementary readings to be distributed in class

4. Course Description

This is an introduction to the study of meaning in natural language. We will develop a system for representing the meaning of linguistic expressions based on the principle of compositionality, which allows us to describe in a precise way how the meanings of complex expressions (e.g., sentences) are built up from the meanings of simpler expressions (e.g., words). We will discuss the place of semantics in linguistic theory, with special attention to the interactions of semantics with both syntax and pragmatics. Specific topics and tools to be covered include patterns of inference, propositional and predicate logic, the lambda calculus, the grammar of quantification, and intensionality.

5. Aims and objectives:

The course is designed to:

1. discuss basic issues and tools for doing semantics Propositions vs. utterances vs. sentences, truth conditions, inferences, propositional and predicate logic, set theory, models
2. build a grammar (weeks 3–13): Heim and Kratzer's (1998) simple but powerful grammar for a fragment of English, built using the tools described above, situated within a generative syntax

6. Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs):

By completing the course successfully, students are expected to:

- gain the basic level of knowledge about meaning in natural language
- reason analytically on the mechanism and representation of truth-conditional meaning and provide linguistically-oriented analyses of the process.

7. Programme Learning Outcomes (PLOs):

The program aims to prepare competent graduates who are capable of:

- reading and understanding critically sources and references in the area of specializations
- expressing ideas critically and analytically
- practicing methods of research in practical and professional life
- depending on one's self in developing competences
- employing scientific and cognitive theories in the major areas of specialization
- contributing to the development of general knowledge and expanding it

8. Teaching Methods

The methods of instruction include but not limited to Lectures, Discussion and problem solving, Individual and group assignments (research projects), any active learning method such as: small group

#	Description	Weight	Description
1.	Midterm Exam	30%	
2.	Final Exam	50%	
3.	Term Paper and Presentation	10 %	
4.	Participation	10%	
Total		100%	

9. Course Schedule:

Week	Topics to be covered	Readings (Pages)	CLOs	PLOs
One: 22/02 - 27/02	propositions, truth conditions, inferences,	Handout posted		
Two: 29/02 - 05/03	propositional and predicate logic 1	Handout posted		
Three: 07/03 - 12 /03	propositional and predicate logic 2	Handout posted		
Four: 14/03- 19/03	Basics of the system	H-K: Ch.1-2		
Five: 21/03 - 26/03	Modification, definite descriptions	H-K: Ch.3-4		
Six: 28/03 - 02/04	Variable binding	H-K: Ch.5		
Seven: 04/04 - 09/04	Limitation of types e and $\langle e,t \rangle$	H-K: Ch.6		
Eight: 11/04 - 16/04	Natural Language Quantification	H-K: ch. 6		
Nine: 19/04 - 23/04	Midterm exam			
Ten: 25/04 -30/04	Quantifiers in the grammar	H-K: ch. 7		
Eleven: 02/05- 07/05	Constraints on quantifier movement	H-K: ch. 8		
Twelve: 09/05 - 14/05	Pronouns and ellipsis, E-type anaphora	H-K: ch. 9-11		
Thirteen: 16/05 - 21/05	Binding	H-K: Ch.10		
Fourteen : 23/05 - 28/05	Intensionality	H-K: Ch.12		
Fifteen : 30/05 - 01/06				

10. Course Policies



FI12-3, Rev. c

Ref.: Deans' Council Session (03/2018-2019), Decision No.: 14, Date: 15/09/2018

- Course policies are determined by Undergraduate and Postgraduate Degree Regulations and Student Guide

- Policies should be announced during the first meeting.

- **Class Attendance:**

- a. Students must attend all classes of this course.
- b. Any student with absence of 15% of the classes of any course, will be illegible to sit for the final exam and will be given the university zero (35%) in this course.
- c. In the case (b) above, if a student submits an official sick report authenticated by university clinic or an accepted excuse by the Dean of his/her faculty, the student will be considered as withdrawn from the course, and a "W" will be shown in the transcript for this course.

- **Delay:**

Students are not allowed to come late to classes. Any student coming late will not be allowed to attend the class and he/she will be marked absent.

- **Exams:**

- a. Failure in attending a course exam other than the final exam, will result in zero mark unless the student provides an official acceptable excuse to the instructor who approves a make-up exam.
- b. Failure in attending the final exam will result in zero mark unless the student presents an official acceptable excuse to the Dean of his/her faculty who approves an incomplete exam, normally scheduled to be conducted during the first two weeks of the successive semester.

- **Assignments & Projects:**
 Assignments and projects should be submitted to the instructor on the due date. Zero mark will be given for late submissions unless the student has an acceptable excuse approved by the instructor of the course.
- **Exam Attendance/Punctuality:**

 - a. A student who is late more than 10 minutes will not be permitted to sit the exam (first, second or mid exams).
 - b. A student who is late more than 30 minutes will not be permitted to sit to final exam, and no student will be permitted to leave the exam center before the elapse of 30 minutes.
- **Cheating:**
 Cheating is an attempt to gain marks dishonestly and includes; but not limited to:

 - a. Copying from another student's work.
 - b. Using materials not authorized by the institute.
 - c. Collaborating with another student during a test, without permission.
 - d. Knowingly using, buying, selling, or stealing the contents of a test.
 - e. Plagiarism which means presenting another person's work or ideas as one's own, without attribution.
 - f. Using any media (including mobiles) during the exam.
- **Penalty for Cheating:**
 The minimum penalty for cheating is an automatic Zero for the test or assignment leading to a possible "F" for the course. The exam invigilator will produce a report on the case to the examination committee chairman. The report will be kept in the student file. The student may remain seated in the exam center, but in case that causes a disturbance to other students, the student will be expelled out of the exam center if approved by the examination committee chairman. A second offense will result in the immediate suspension of the student for the

remainder of the current semester. A copy of the decision will be kept in the student file.

- **Mobiles:**

Mobile phones should be kept turned off or silent while in class. Usage of mobile phones is not allowed in classes in any form (talking and/or texting).



F112-3, Rev. c

Ref.: Deans' Council Session (03/2018-2019), Decision No.: 14, Date: 15/09/2018