Course Description and learning objectives:
This course is a study of meaning, at the level of the word, the construction, and the utterance. Goals:

- Develop/deepen understanding of core concepts and issues in semantics, as well as the main theoretical approaches to investigating (and sometimes solving) these issues
- Develop/deepen understanding of core concepts and issues in pragmatics, as well as the main theoretical approaches to investigating (and sometimes solving) these issues
- Learn the basics of formulating linguistic arguments about topics in semantics and pragmatics
- Develop skills in critical reading of linguistics papers
- Strengthen presentation skills
- Strengthen writing skills, in particular skills for writing scientific papers in linguistics


Course credit requirements and grading
1. 15% - Reading, discussion, exercises, and participation
2. 15% - Weekly quizzes (on the days that readings are to be finished)
3. 20% - Presentation on one selected topic (one of the additional readings, or something else related to the course material – talk to me about this)
4. 50% - Paper: 10-15 pages (20 pages for 6030) – see details below

Additional readings and discussion questions – required for 6030
For each chapter of the Saeed text, there will be additional assigned reading. Students registered under 6030 are expected to read all of the additional readings and post a response on the Canvas discussion forum. This response should include 2-5 questions and/or points for discussion. For students registered under 5530, you are expected to read at least half of the additional readings. Each student will present one additional reading, and you are expected to participate in the discussion form for the paper you are presenting.

Attendance & Participation
Attendance is REQUIRED, but everyone gets two free absences, no need to explain, just let me know in advance. If a situation develops such that you will need to miss multiple classes, please discuss this with me in person.

Readings and exercises, and what to expect:
We’ll cover roughly one chapter per week – a few special chapters get two weeks. You are expected to do the reading before the start of class each Monday. We will discuss the readings – come prepared with your thoughts and questions. I will not be lecturing over the material! On Wednesday we will continue to discuss the reading, including discussion of the exercises.

Detailed schedule can be found on Canvas. Usually:
- Readings for the week should be done prior to Monday’s class
- Monday will start with a quiz over the reading (quizzes graded on a 3-point scale)
- Exercises will be due at the start of Wednesday's class (exercises marked as complete/incomplete)
Exercises should be printed out (or written out, if that’s your preference), and each student should bring one hard copy. The exercises will not be graded, but we’ll discuss them in class – we might also do some passing around and grading of each other’s work. (Solutions are in the back of the book – working through these exercises is really for your benefit, as an aid to learning the material.)

Paper landmarks:
All paper landmarks, except for the final version, must be submitted in hard copy, at the beginning of the class during which they are due. The final version should be submitted via Canvas, in either Word or PDF format.

- **Sept. 23: Brainstorm two-pager (5%)**: the aim of this is to explore potential paper topics. You will write up one or more ideas of interesting paper topics (for example, an interesting puzzle about linguistic meaning), focusing on linguistic observations, with examples (i.e. data). It’s okay to change your topic after writing this up – think of it like brainstorming on paper.

- **Oct. 21: Literature survey (5%)**: identify, read, and write summaries of 3-5 papers related to your topic ideas. For each paper, discuss how it relates to the topic you’re interested in and what insights it offers to the topic. Where relevant, compare the papers to each other – it may be that they have different things to say about the puzzle at hand. As a preliminary step, you’ll need to look for related papers and send me an email with the results of that search. The papers that go into your literature review need to be approved beforehand. For this assignment, the content is more important than the writing – even bullet lists of, e.g., similarities and differences would be okay.

- **Oct. 28: Topic one-pager (5%)**: for this assignment you will describe the topic of your paper clearly and concisely, including discussion of the most important points from your literature survey. This one-pager should clearly present the question your paper aims to solve, as well as your main hypothesis about the solution.

- **Nov. 11: Paper outline (5%)**: submit a detailed outline of the paper, showing the argument that you want to make: what is the puzzle/question/problem? How can we investigate the problem more deeply? How do we arrive at a solution?

- **Nov. 25: Paper draft (10%)**: this must be a complete draft of the paper. It’s okay if there are a handful of place-holders or TODOs scattered throughout, but the bulk of the paper should be there.

- **~Dec. 11: Final version (20%)**: this will be a polished, well-crafted paper investigating some problem in semantics or pragmatics. Clarity of expression, content, and organization are the main criteria by which the papers will be evaluated, as well as incorporation of the suggested revisions.

**Dec. 9: Short paper presentations**: 15 minute presentation of your research question(s) and main findings – we'll invite the department for this session and have a potluck to celebrate the end of class

**Late assignments**: Exercises and quizzes may not be submitted late, but the lowest 2 grades for each will be dropped, giving you the flexibility to miss a couple over the course of the semester without penalty. For each paper landmark, I will automatically grant a one day extension, provided you request that extension via email before the end of the class period in which the assignment is due. I will consider longer extensions in the event of special circumstances, by request. The sooner you submit your work, though, the sooner you'll get feedback.

**Linguistics Colloquia and COI Discovery Series Talks**: The Department of Linguistics and the College of Information each offer a series of talks from experts in the field. Please plan to attend these if at all possible – I'll be sure to announce the talks, and they will also appear on the course schedule.
Class behavior (University policy): Student behavior that interferes with an instructor’s ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The university's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including university and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at www.unt.edu/csrr

Academic Integrity: Please make sure that all the work you submit in this course is your own!!!
It is your responsibility to know the definitions and consequences of plagiarism, cheating etc. as outlined in the Code of Student Conduct and Discipline, available in the Undergraduate Catalog and online at http://catalog.unt.edu/content.php?catoid=5&navoid=244#Student_Standards_of_Academic_Integrity

Disability Accommodation Statement: “The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information see the Office of Disability Accommodation website at http://www.unt.edu/oda. You may also contact them by phone at 940.565.4323.”

Students with any special needs or disabilities (including learning disabilities) should inform me of their needs as soon as possible so that proper accommodations can be made.

Sexual Assault Prevention. UNT is committed to providing a safe learning environment free of all forms of sexual misconduct. Federal laws and UNT policies prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex as well as sexual misconduct. If you or someone you know is experiencing sexual harassment, relationship violence, stalking and/or sexual assault, there are campus resources available to provide support and assistance. The Survivor Advocates can be reached at SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu or by calling the Dean of Students Office at 940-565-2648.