LING 6030: Semantics & Pragmatics 2  Fall 2020

Wednesday, 6:30pm-9:20pm, remote meetings via Zoom (link on Canvas)

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Office hours: Tuesdays 3-6pm, please make an appointment using calendly – email me if you need an appointment at a different day and/or time

================================ LOGISTICS ======================================

Communication expectations:
1. Canvas – Canvas is the official site for course announcements from me to you. Please check it daily.
2. Email – If you have questions or concerns, email is the best way to reach me. Feel free to email me at any time (alexis.palmer@unt.edu) – I try to respond to emails within 24 hours, except on weekends.
3. Feedback – Feedback on assignments will be given through Canvas. I will do my best to give feedback on all assignments within one week of the date they were submitted. This timeframe may change as the circumstances of the semester change.
4. Grading – Grades will be posted on Canvas. I will do my best to grade all assignments within one week of the date they were submitted. This timeframe may change as the circumstances of the semester change.

Course structure:
This course is cross-listed with LING 5530. This course will be meeting remotely, with some asynchronous work and some synchronous meetings, held via Zoom. Synchronous meetings will take place at 6:30pm each Wednesday, ending no later than 8:30pm (and sometimes earlier), with a 10-minute break at 7:30pm. All assignments will be handled through Canvas.

Students registered for LING 6030 only need to join for the second half of the LING 5530 sessions, so from roughly 7:40pm-8:30pm each Wednesday. We will schedule an additional weekly meeting time for LING 6030, depending on the availability of the students and the instructor. (You are of course welcome to attend the first part of the Wednesday classes as you like.)

Class Materials for Remote Instruction
Students will need access to a computer or other device with a webcam and microphone, as well as reliable internet access, to participate in the remote portions of the class. Information on how to be successful in a remote learning environment can be found at https://online.unt.edu/learn. Here you can also find information about computer lab access. More information on technical support is available later in the syllabus.

The University is committed to providing a reliable online course system to all users. However, in the event of any unexpected server outage or any unusual technical difficulty which prevents students from completing a time sensitive assessment activity, the instructor will extend the time windows and provide an appropriate accommodation based on the situation. Students should immediately report any problems to the instructor and contact the UNT Student Help Desk: helpdesk@unt.edu or 940.565.2324 and obtain a ticket number. The instructor and the UNT Student Help Desk will work with the student to resolve any issues at the earliest possible time.
Course Description and learning objectives:
This course is an advanced study of meaning, in which we will pursue semantic theory in greater depth. Goals:
• Deepen understanding of core concepts and issues in semantics and pragmatics
• Develop deep knowledge of semantic/pragmatic theory as it relates to a particular topic of interest
• Apply semantic/pragmatic theory to a topic of interest
• Write a carefully-argued, potentially publishable paper on a topic in semantics or pragmatics
• Improve 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, and participation (LING 5530 discussion forums)
2. 15% - Development of an annotated bibliography
3. 20% - Presentations (1-2, as time allows)
4. 50% - Research project and paper: 20+ pages – see details below

Readings from the primary literature
In addition to a textbook, LING 5530 students are assigned readings from the primary literature. Students enrolled in LING 6030 are expected to read at least half of the additional readings.

Discussion boards
Because we are not able to meet in person this semester, much of our discussion and interaction will take place on discussion boards. Each student is expected to participate in discussions every week, with a minimum of 2 postings. These can be on different topics (not a complete list):
• Responses to the reading (primary literature readings)
• Questions about the reading, with your best guess at an answer, and why that answer doesn’t sit well with you
• Questions or thoughts about any area of semantics or pragmatics
• Ideas for research projects/papers
• Problems or questions you’ve run into with your research projects, or interesting things you have discovered
• Semantics or pragmatics in daily life

To be counted for the weekly discussion requirement, a post needs to have some substance – think short paragraph rather than single sentence. I will participate in the discussion boards, but I leave their organization up to the class – please add topics as needed. LING 6030 students should strike a balance between participating in the general (LING 5530+6030) discussion topics and participating in topic-specific discussions.

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 and you will need to miss multiple classes, please discuss this with me directly.

COVID-19 Impact on Attendance
While attendance is expected as outlined above, it is important for all of us to be mindful of the health and safety of everyone in our community, especially given concerns about COVID-19. Please contact me if you are unable to attend class because you are ill, or unable to attend class due to a related issue regarding COVID-19. It is important that you communicate with me prior to being absent so I may make a decision about accommodating your request to be excused from class.

If you are experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19 (https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html) please seek medical attention from the Student Health and Wellness Center (940-565-2333 or askSHWC@unt.edu) or your health care provider PRIOR to coming to campus. UNT also requires you to contact the UNT COVID Hotline at 844-366-5892 or COVID@unt.edu for guidance on actions to take due to symptoms, pending or positive test results, or potential exposure. While attendance is an important part of succeeding in this class, your own health, and those of others in the community, is more important.

Readings and exercises, and what to expect:
In addition to joining in the primary literature readings associated with LING 5530, students are expected to undertake extensive readings on their topic of interest.

Detailed schedule can be found on Canvas. Usually:
• Wednesday classes will be for discussion and presentations
• We will have an additional weekly meeting for 6030 students only
• At least one discussion board post is due before the start of class on Wednesday
• You are expected to contribute to the discussion boards at least twice each week

Research project and paper:
The main concern of students enrolled in LING 6030 is to undertake extensive research on a topic of interest (in semantics/pragmatics), developing a research question and addressing it through investigation, analysis, and theoretical argumentation. The main outcomes will be an annotated bibliography and a paper of potentially publishable quality. We will establish timelines and deadlines in our first 6030-only meeting. The final version of the paper will be due around December 9.

Late assignments:
For each specific paper deadline, I will automatically grant a one day extension, provided you request that extension via email before the beginning 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.

================================ ADDITIONAL INFORMATION =================================

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
Prohibition of Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation (Policy 16.004)
The University of North Texas (UNT) prohibits discrimination and harassment because of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, or any other characteristic protected under applicable federal or state law in its application and admission processes; educational programs and activities; employment policies, procedures, and processes; and university facilities. The University takes active measures to prevent such conduct and investigates and takes remedial action when appropriate.

Rules of Engagement
This is a discussion-based class, and our discussions may sometimes take us into areas where people disagree. Rules of engagement are some guidelines for how we are expected to interact with each other. Here are some general guidelines:

- While the freedom to express yourself is a fundamental human right, any communication that utilizes cruel and derogatory language on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, or any other characteristic protected under applicable federal or state law will not be tolerated.
- Treat your instructor and classmates with respect in any communication online or face-to-face, even when their opinion differs from your own.
- Ask for and use the correct name and pronouns for your instructor and classmates.
- Speak from personal experiences. Use “I” statements to share thoughts and feelings. Try not to speak on behalf of groups or other individual’s experiences.
- Use your critical thinking skills to challenge other people’s ideas, instead of attacking individuals.
- Avoid using all caps while communicating digitally. This may be interpreted as “YELLING!”
- Be cautious when using humor or sarcasm in emails or discussion posts as tone can be difficult to interpret digitally.
- Avoid using “text-talk” unless explicitly permitted by your instructor.
- Proofread and fact-check your sources.
- Keep in mind that online posts can be permanent, so think first before you type.

See these Engagement Guidelines (https://clear.unt.edu/online-communication-tips) for more information.

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, including sexual harassment, sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. Federal laws (Title IX and the Violence Against Women Act) and UNT policies prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex, and therefore prohibit 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. UNT’s Survivor Advocates can assist a student who has been impacted by violence by filing protective orders, completing crime victim’s compensation applications, contacting professors for absences related to an assault, working with housing to facilitate a room change where appropriate, and connecting students to other resources available both on and off campus. The Survivor Advocates can be reached at SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu or by calling the Dean of Students Office at 940-565-2648. Additionally, alleged sexual misconduct can be non-confidentially reported to the Title IX Coordinator at oeo@unt.edu or at (940) 565 2759.

**Technical Assistance**
Part of working in the online environment involves dealing with the inconveniences and frustration that can arise when technology breaks down or does not perform as expected. Here at UNT we have a Student Help Desk that you can contact for help with Canvas or other technology issues.

**UIT Help Desk:** [UIT Student Help Desk site](http://www.unt.edu/helpdesk/index.htm)
**Email:** helpdesk@unt.edu
**Phone:** 940-565-2324
**In Person:** Sage Hall, Room 130
**Walk-In Availability:** 8am-9pm
**Telephone Availability:**
- Sunday: noon-midnight
- Monday-Thursday: 8am-midnight
- Friday: 8am-8pm
- Saturday: 9am-5pm
**Laptop Checkout:** 8am-7pm

For additional support, visit [Canvas Technical Help](https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10554-4212710328)

**Class Recordings & Student Likenesses**
Synchronous (live) sessions in this course will be recorded for students enrolled in this class section to refer to throughout the semester. Class recordings are the intellectual property of the university or instructor and are reserved for use only by students in this class and only for educational purposes. Students may not post or otherwise share the recordings outside the class, or outside the Canvas Learning Management System, in any form. Failing to follow this restriction is a violation of the UNT Code of Student Conduct and could lead to disciplinary action.