## Outline

## Lecture 4

LCD 306: Semantics & Pragmatics

C.N. Serrano Madsen II Queens College CUNY

Tuesday 10 February 2015

2 Science

■ Scientific Process and Thought

■ Framework

Homework

1 Administrativa Miscellany

■ Homework

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Administrativa Table of Contents

Administrativa

Table of Contents

1 Administrativa

- Miscellany
- Homework

2 Science

- Scientific Process and Thought
- Framework
- Homework

1 Administrativa

- Miscellany
- Homework

2 Science

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- Scientific Process and Thought
- Framework
- Homework

- Recall that there will be NO class this coming Thursday
- We will meet again on Tuesday 17 February
- Exam two weeks from today! (24 Feb)

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- Howard Gregory (2000). Semantics.
- First two chapters
  - That are three main points of the first chapter?

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Administrativa 000 Homework No. 2 Language

- Anything missing?
- Any disagreements?

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## Semantics and Pragmatics

- 1 Administrativa
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  - Homework
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- What are the definitions of the following:
  - Linguistics
  - Semantics
- Semantics: Scientific study of meaning in language

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Administrativa

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Science

Science

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Scientific Process and Thought

Table of Contents

- After getting a working definitions of *meaning* and *language* we need to address *scientific*
- What do we mean by scientific study?
- In contrast to what?
- How do we investigate scientifically
- What framework are we using?

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- Scientific Process and Thought
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Science

Scientific Process and Thought

Scientific Study

- Science is about understanding a phenomenon
- How we interpret understanding
- Epistemiology
  - Rationalism
  - Idealism
  - Constructivism
  - Empiricism

- How do we get at *understanding*?
- What are the goals of science?
  - Describe
  - Model
  - Explain





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- The process to get at understanding
- What really makes something *science* 
  - Examine phenomena systematically
  - Formulate testable hypotheses and predictions (Hypothesize)
  - Formulate explanations (Theories) which are falsifiable
  - Seek out new data to test theory against (Replicate)
  - Revise if necessary

- Scientific Process and Thought
- Framework

1 Administrativa

Miscellany

Homework

Homework



Administrativa

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- This is not a truly objective process
- Constrained by society and culture
  - Tacit assumptions
  - Limit acceptable areas of inquiry
  - Limit what is considered a "phenomenon"
  - Limit acceptable ways of investigating a problem
  - Limit was is considered an acceptable answer

- What framework are we using in the class?
  - Empirical approach

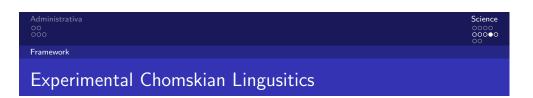
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Quantitative (Experimental) Chomskian Linguistics





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- It is not a description of the phenomena with no attempt to explain/account for it.
  - "Butterfly collecting is not science"
- It is not modeling the phenomena without trying to understand/account for it.

- Attempts to understand meaning in language
- How meaning is organized, represented, interpreted, and expressed in/by the mind.
- By positing falsifiable theories that have predictive power based off of the data available.
  - Experimentalist gather data by designing experiments (More on this later)

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- Groups of 4
- Experimental Semantics or Pragmatics article
  - Exact variety of language
  - Research Question
  - Experimental Design

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