

## Lecture 1

### LCD 306: Semantics & Pragmatics

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## Outline

1 Syllabus

2 Assessment Quiz

3 Meaning

## Syllabus

- Please review the syllabus at home
- We will only cover highlights in class today
- You are responsible for what is in the syllabus

## Course Goals

- Semantics
- Pragmatics
- Experimental Design & Presentation

## Course Materials

- Gregory, Howard (2000). *Semantics*. London: Routledge. [required]
- Stilwell Peccei, Jean (1999). *Pragmatics*. Milton Park, UK: Routledge. [required]
- other material posted online
- Freeware Programs: R,  $\LaTeX$

## Course Assessment

- 3 Exams: 60%
- 2 Group Presentations: 30%
- 3 Assignment Packets: 10%

## Language

- You are encouraged to use any variety of speech in class and on assignments and presentations
- Exams are restricted to:
  - French
  - Spanish
  - German
  - English
  - Arabic

## Sketch of Class Policies

- Be on time
- Participate
- Exams: use homework and listen to music
- “Subway rules” for food in class and music during exams
- Be honest

## Course Website

- [cmadsen.commons.gc.cuny.edu/teaching/lcd306](https://cmadsen.commons.gc.cuny.edu/teaching/lcd306)
  - Syllabus
  - Lecture slides
  - Assignments

## Accomodation

- Please see me about any accommodations needed
  - Larger fonts
  - sans serif fonts
  - colored paper
  - more time on exams
- No need to make an “official” request for services

## Academic Integrity

- Acknowledge whose mind is responsible for what knowledge
- Only responsible for what you “know.” When in doubt, please come and talk to me.

## Important Dates

No Lecture

- 12 Feb: No Class – Lincoln's Birthday
- 26 Feb: No Class – work from home
- 7 Apr: No Class – Spring Break
- 9 Apr: No Class – Spring Break

## Important Dates

Exams

- 24 Feb: First Exam
- 31 Mar: Second Exam
- 12 May: Third Exam

## Important Dates

Presentations

- 17 & 19 Mar: First Presentation
- 14 & 19 May: Second Presentation

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## Assesement Quiz

- Not graded
- Something for me to assess where we are starting from
- Do your best, but don't belabor any one question. Just move on if you don't immediately know the answer

## Quantitative Methods

- Experiment
- Dependent Variable
- Independent Variable
- Scientific Method
- Inferential Statistics
- Sample

## Semantics

- Sense
- Reference
- Prototype
- Truth Conditions
- Entailment

## Pragmatics

- Context
- Speech Act
- Politeness (mistakenly on the assessment quiz twice)
- Gricean Maxims
- Implicature
- Inference
- Conversation Structure

## Topics to cover in class

- You are not expected to know much on the assessment quiz
- We will cover these topics during the course of the class

## Meaning

- When you hear an utterance what happens?
  - What information do you glean from it?
  - What in the utterance tells you what?
- I'm going to Nashville tonight to see my sister.

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- I'm going to Nashville tonight to see my sister.
- The speaker has at least one sibling
  - The speaker's sibling is female
  - The speaker [in New York City] is flying
  - There is a place called Nashville
  - The speaker is close with the speaker's sister

## Meaning

- When you hear an utterance what happens?
  - What information do you glean from it?
  - What in the utterance tells you what?
- 
- I'm stoked for the new season on RuPaul's Drag Race to start.

## Meaning

- I'm stoked for the new season on RuPaul's Drag Race to start.
- 
- The speaker is from Southern California or a skater
  - There is more than one season of RuPaul's Drag Race
  - The speaker has likely watched the other seasons of RuPaul's Drag Race
  - The speaker is a fan of RuPaul's Drag Race
  - It is likely that RuPaul's Drag Race starts soon
  - The [male] speaker is likely homosexual

## Meaning

- When you hear an utterance what happens?
  - What information do you glean from it?
  - What in the utterance tells you what?
- 
- Person A: Are you busy or are you ignoring me? If you are ignoring me you should say something.
  - Person B: Don't make it weird.

## Meaning

- Person A: Are you busy or are you ignoring me? If you are ignoring me you should say something.
  - Person B: Don't make it weird.
- 
- The speakers have some relationship with one another
  - Person B hasn't responded to person A in a while
  - There are some social conventions regarding *ignoring* and *replying* to someone

# Meaning

- Meaning is embedded in the the words we use
- How we use them
- The “meaning” of a sentence is more than just the sum of its words

# Meaning

- When we say something “means” something, what is “meant”?
- What does the word “mean” mean?

# Meaning

- What does the word “dog” mean?

# Assignment No. 1

- When a **noun** means something, what does it mean?
- When a **verb** means something, what does it mean?
- When a **adjective** means something, what does it mean?
  
- What does the word “dog” mean?
- What does the word “run” mean?