



PROGRAMA DE ASIGNATURA

1. NOMBRE DE LA ASIGNATURA

Semántica y pragmática inglesas

2. NOMBRE DE LA ASIGNATURA EN INGLÉS

English semantics and pragmatics

3. HORAS DE TRABAJO PRESENCIAL DEL CURSO

3

4. NÚMERO DE CRÉDITOS

8 Créditos
10 Créditos (nuevo reglamento Magíster en Lingüística)

5. OBJETIVO GENERAL DE LA ASIGNATURA

This course offers a firm grounding in the theory of meaning at large, at an introductory level. It intends to familiarise the student with an extensive range of themes that pertain to a core area of human linguistic capacity, which is the construction, expression and interpretation of semantic and pragmatic knowledge through language. It delivers a comprehensive and broad understanding of how meaning is embedded systematically in the linguistic system and how its expression relates a) to the more general cognitive capacity of humans for conceptualisation as well as b) to their ability of interacting meaningfully with their pragmatic environment, broadly understood as encompassing cultural and social norms.

6. OBJETIVOS ESPECÍFICOS DE LA ASIGNATURA

1. Introduce the theoretical and empirical reasons behind the study of semantics and pragmatics as linguistic fields in their own right.
2. Get familiar with the reasons underlying the division of the realm of meaning into sub-fields such as semantics and pragmatics.
3. Understand the necessity for the development of specific

methodological tools that pertain to semantic and pragmatic analysis.

4. Gain an understanding of the multi-faceted nature of a satisfactory treatment of linguistic meaning and of the interconnections that exist among distinct semantic levels such as lexical, phrasal and sentential.
5. Gain an understanding of the multi-faceted nature of pragmatic meaning and of the interconnections that exist between language and the broader contexts of its use.
6. Get acquainted with the core theoretical and empirical themes, questions, problems and various solutions offered in the context of semantic inquiry that pertain to the levels of semantic analysis.
7. Get acquainted with the core theoretical and empirical themes, questions, problems and various solutions that pertain to the levels of pragmatic analysis.
8. Attain the ability of analysing a set of linguistic data with the methodological tools that pertain to semantic and pragmatics analysis.
9. Develop skills and knowledge that will be useful in other academic modules where similar empirical analysis of specific linguistic data and deduction of theoretical conclusions is needed.
10. Appreciate the realm of meaning as an exciting scientific field that illuminates one of the most miraculous innate cognitive capacities of humans.

7. SABERES / CONTENIDOS

1. How many “meanings”? Meaning in philosophy, metaphysics and language. Meaning and linguistic expression; semantics as a linguistic field proper; conceptualisation of the term along the historical period of its development. Semantics within modern linguistics. Semantics within the organisation of the linguistic system. Semantics vs. pragmatics.
2. How many “meanings”? Reference and levels of signification: sense, denotation, deixis.
3. How many “semantics”? Semantics and linguistic components;



Semantics and levels of semantic analysis; Lexical vs. Sentential and Sentential vs. Propositional.

4. Meaning and the sentence; how does the meaning of a sentence is constructed? The notion of compositionality. What is the right level of compositional analysis? Primes of compositional semantics.

5. Propositional Logic. Conditions of referential truth. Predicate logic. Building up the Truth of sentences.

6. Is Truth all there is? Information structure and the discourse semantics of transformations. Thematic-role core vs. discourse periphery in syntax.

7. Is Truth all there is? necessary characteristics vs. prototypical characteristics.

8. Is Truth all there is? Semantic change and semantic extension: metonymy and metaphor.

9. Beyond the level of sentence; from proposition to discourse and from sentence to utterance.

10. "interpreting" vs. "doing": how to do things with words. Language as a sociolinguistic action.

11. Defining the scope of pragmatics: the reasons behind its postulation as a linguistic field in its own right. The history of the term.

12. Sentences as speech acts; speaker's intentions and the typology of performative utterances.

13. Language and context: context as situational common ground; context as background knowledge; the notion of contextual enrichment and pragmatic coherence.

14. From reference to inference. Underlying semantic relations in the production of an utterance.

15. Conversation and implicature; interpretation as a co-operative linguistic event; conditions for a convergent conversation;

16. Grice's maxims of conversational cooperation; text-context balance and communicative economy; relevance.



17. Cognitive linguistics and the continuum between semantics and pragmatics. Concepts pre-existing compositionality and situated conceptual integration.

8. METODOLOGÍA

To the end of achieving the aims and objectives as outlined above, the modules are organised around the following axes: in-class lectures, in-class analysis and discussion, students' presentations, off-class activities and a final preparation of an essay on a prescribed subject. The weekly program comprises a session divided into two 1.5-hour parts. The first one is devoted to the analysis, discussion and development of themes that have been given to the students as material for off-class practice. The second is devoted to introducing new material and empirically analysing data. The students are required to prepare the assigned material and actively participate in its analysis in the class.

9. METODOLOGÍAS DE EVALUACIÓN

- i. After each lecture, activities in the form of small scale self-contained themes (either theoretical or empirical) will be given to the students for preparing them as an off-class work assignment. The students are required to bring along the work they have come up with and actively participate in its presentation in the session devoted to practice. Meeting this requirement occupies a 20% over the whole mark.
- ii. A small essay on a prescribed subject (a critical analysis of a theoretical or empirical issue, or a thorough and comprehensive analysis of a semantically/pragmatically relevant phenomenon). This is assessed with a maximum participation of 80% over the whole mark and has to be handed in by a due date to be announced.

10. PALABRAS CLAVE

semantics; compositionality; logic; concepts; mental spaces; pragmatics; speech acts; cooperation; politeness

11. BIBLIOGRAFÍA OBLIGATORIA



Saeed, J. (2008). *Semantics*. Oxford, UK: Wiley-Blackwell

Fauconnier, G. & M. Turner (2002). New York: *The Way We Think*. Basic Books.

12. BIBLIOGRAFÍA COMPLEMENTARIA

Portner, P.H. (2005). *What is Meaning? Fundamentals of Formal Semantics*. Oxford, UK: Wiley-Blackwell.

13. RECURSOS WEB

RUT y NOMBRE COMPLETO DEL DOCENTE(S) RESPONSABLE(S)

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GEORGIOS IOANNOU