

Semantics 2, Fall 2021: Course information

Sam Alxatib

Instructors: Sam Al Khatib
Time/Place: M 11:45-1:45 – Rm. TBD; Additional Practicum TBD
Office hours: By appointment
Textbook: von Stechow, Kai and Irene Heim (2020). *Intensional Semantics*. Open-access course notes.

Description. More natural language semantics; investigation of issues beyond extensional truth conditional semantics; possible world/time semantics and its use in the analysis of attitude predicates, modals, conditionals, tense, aspect, and degree constructions. **Practicums begin in Week 3**, and will include practice sessions of formal semantics as well as logic, and (later) short student-led reports on term paper progress.

Course goals. To familiarize students with advanced methods and tools used in current research on formal semantics of natural language. By the end of the semester you will have learned:

- (i) basics in possible-world semantics,
- (ii) how the meanings of attitude verbs, modals, tense morphology, aspect, are formally represented,
- (iii) how the meanings of such expressions interact compositionally with other linguistic expressions, detailed investigation of classic problems and issues in the literature on modality tense, and aspect.

Course objectives. To continue to develop a concrete model of form-meaning interaction, building on Semantics 1; practice use of mathematical tools in developing such models, including possible world semantics, modal logic, λ -calculus, role/place of extralinguistic reasoning in inference calculation.

Expectations and grading. You are expected to do all of your homework, participate in class discussions, and attend all lectures and practicums. You are also required to submit **two** questions by email for each lecture. The questions must be about the assigned readings of that lecture, and are due the evening before class. Finally, you are required to write a term paper (10-15 pages) on a topic of your choice. The paper is to be developed through meetings and presentations in practicum sessions, and is due at the end of semester (precise date TBD).

Course calendar. See opposite page.

Plan (subject to change)

WEEK	TOPIC	READING
1	Re/over-view	H&K Ch. 12, vF&H Ch. 1, Ch. 2.1
2	Possible worlds, names, descriptions	McGinn 2015 Ch. 2
3	Attitude verbs & <i>de re/de dicto</i>	vF&H Ch. 4-5
4	Modals 1	vF&H Ch. 2.3-2.4, Kratzer 1977 (2012 Ch. 1)
5	Conditionals 1	vF&H Ch. 2.2
6	Tense 1	Ogihara 2007
7	Modals 2	vF&H Ch. 5, Kratzer 1991
8	Modals 3	von Stechow & Gillies 2010
9	Conditionals 2	TBA
10	Tense 2	Kusumoto 2005
11	Tense 3	Bochnak, Hohaus & Mucha 2019
12	Aspect 1	Rothstein 2004 Ch. 1
13	Aspect 2 (the perfect)	Pancheva 2003
14	Aspect 3 (interaction with modality)	Condoravdi 2002