

INTRODUCTION TO SEMANTICS

Fall 2018

(latest version: September 17, 2018)

COURSE:

NAME:	LING 360	Introduction to Semantics
TIME:	Mn Wd Fr	9h35–10h25
LOCATION:	Rutherford Physics	rm 118

INSTRUCTORS:

	PRINCIPAL	ASSISTANT
NAME:	Brendan Gillon	Amelia Bruno
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HOURS:	Wd Fr 10h30–11h30 and by appointment	Mn 12h30–13h30

AIM:

As its title indicates, this course introduces students to the basic concepts of semantics and pragmatics, many of which were developed by philosophers and logicians. Contributors to this field include: Gottlob Frege (1848–1925) and Edmund Husserl (1859–1938), Bertrand Russell (1872–1970), Alfred Tarski (1901–1983), Willard Quine (1908–2000), Yehoshua Bar-Hillel (1915–1975), Peter Geach (1916–), Peter Strawson (1919–2006), Richard Montague (1930–1971), Max Cresswell (1939–), Robert Stalnaker (1940–), David Lewis (1941–2001), and many others. Except for logic (PHIL 210), knowledge of which is required for the course, the course is self-contained.

COURSE MATERIAL:

- REQUIRED: *Natural Language Semantics : formation and valuation*, by Brendan S. Gillon, MIT Press.

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- SUPPLEMENTARY: *Semantics: A Reader*, Oxford University Press, edited by Steven Davis and Brendan Gillon

EVALUATION:

- 10 problem sets: 2% each
- Midterm Exam: 35%
Time: Monday, October 15th, 18h05–20h00
Place: Leacock Building rm. 026
- Final Exam: 45%
Time: tba
Place: tba

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:

McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences under the code of student conduct and disciplinary procedures. (See www.mcgill.ca/integrity for more information.)

L'Université McGill attache une haute importance à l'honnêteté académique. Il incombe par conséquent à tous les étudiants de comprendre ce que l'on entend par tricherie, plagiat et autres infractions académiques, ainsi que les conséquences que peuvent avoir de telles actions, selon le Code de conduite de l'étudiant et des procédures disciplinaires. (Pour de plus amples renseignements, veuillez consulter le site www.mcgill.ca/integrity.)

SYLLABUS

WEEK 1	5 Sep	introduction	ch. 1 §1
	7 Sep	introduction	ch. 1 §2.1
WEEK 2	10 Sep	introduction	ch. 1 §2.2.1
	12 Sep	introduction	ch. 1 §2.2.2
	14 Sep	introduction	ch. 1 §2.2.3
WEEK 3	17 Sep	introduction	ch. 1 §3
	19 Sep	basic set theory	ch. 2 §1–3
	21 Sep	basic set theory	ch. 2 §4–5
WEEK 4	24 Sep	basic set theory	ch. 2 §6.1
	26 Sep	basic set theory	ch. 2 §6.2
	28 Sep	basic set theory	ch. 2 §6.3–6.3.2
WEEK 5	1 Oct	basic English grammar	ch. 3 §2.3–3.2
	3 Oct	basic English grammar	ch. 3 §3.3
	5 Oct	basic English grammar	ch. 3 §3.4.1
WEEK 6	8 Oct		no class
	9 Oct	basic English grammar	ch. 3 §3.4.2–4
	12 Oct	language and context	ch. 4 §1–2 <i>Semantics: A Reader</i> : ch. 39
WEEK 7	15 Oct	language and context	ch. 4 §3–5
	15 Oct	midterm	18h05 – 20h00 Leacock Building rm. 26
WEEK 8	22 Oct	classical propositional logic	ch. 6 §2 (up to §2.1.2)
	24 Oct	classical propositional logic	ch. 6 §2.1.3
	26 Oct	classical propositional logic	ch. 6 §2.2–2.2.2
WEEK 9	29 Oct	classical propositional logic	ch. 6 §2.2.3
	31 Oct	English connectors	ch. 8 §1–3
	2 Nov	English connectors	ch. 8 §4

WEEK 10	5 Nov	English connectors	ch. 8 §5
	7 Nov	English connectors	ch. 8 §6–7 <i>Semantics: A Reader</i> ch. 31
	9 Nov	classical predicate logic	ch. 9 §1–2
WEEK 11	12 Nov	classical predicate logic	ch. 9 §3–4
	14 Nov	English grammatical predicates	ch. 10 §1–2.1
	16 Nov	English grammatical predicates	ch. 10 §2.2–2.4
WEEK 12	19 Nov	English grammatical predicates	ch. 10 §3.1
	21 Nov	English grammatical predicates	ch. 10 §3.2–3.3
	23 Nov	classical quantificational logic	ch. 11 §1
WEEK 13	26 Nov	classical quantificational logic	ch. 11 §2.1.1–3
	28 Nov	classical quantificational logic	ch. 11 §2.1.4 <i>Semantics: A Reader</i> ch. 23
	30 Nov	classical quantificational logic	ch. 11 §2.3
WEEK 14	3 Dec	catch up and review	
	4 Dec	review	

PROCEDURES:

- NO ANSWER TO ANY GRADED PROBLEM OR EXAMINATION QUESTION WILL BE RE-ASSESSED, unless:
 1. the answer is written in ink;
 2. it has not been written over; and
 3. the answer is clearly marked as such.
- NO LATE PROBLEM SETS WILL BE ACCEPTED. Each problem set must be turned in at the beginning of the class on its due date.
- NO MAKE-UP EXAMINATIONS WILL BE GIVEN to anyone who does not have a certified medical excuse.
- Work may be submitted in either English or French.