

INTRODUCTION TO SEMANTICS

Fall 2020

(latest version: August 14, 2020)

COURSE:

NAME: LING 360 Introduction to Semantics
TIME: Mn Wd Fr 14h35–15h25
LOCATION: Otto Maass rm 217

INSTRUCTORS:

	PRINCIPAL	ASSISTANT
NAME:	Brendan Gillon	Esmail Moghiseh
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HOURS:	tba and by appointment	tba

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–), David Kaplan (1933–), David Lewis (1941–2001), Robert Stalnaker (1940–) 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. The book is available for purchase, either in cash or with a cheque, at *The Word* (469 Milton street; <http://wordbookstore.ca/>; 514 845 5640; wordbook@securenet.net).

A hard copy of the textbook sells for \$US 80 (\$CDN 106, GST not included). At *The Word*, it sells for \$CDN 107, which includes GST. MIT Press provides access to an electronic edition of the book for 4 months for \$US 32 (\$CDN 42.50, GST not included).

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

EVALUATION:

- The tentative plan is to give between 5 and 10 equally weighted quizzes. A final determination will be made before the start of classes.

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	2 Sep	introduction	ch. 1 §1
	4 Sep	introduction	ch. 1 §2.1
WEEK 2	7 Sep	introduction	ch. 1 §2.2.1
	9 Sep	introduction	ch. 1 §2.2.2
	11 Sep	introduction	ch. 1 §2.2.3
WEEK 3	14 Sep	introduction	ch. 1 §3
	16 Sep	basic set theory	ch. 2 §1–3
	18 Sep	basic set theory	ch. 2 §4–5
WEEK 4	21 Sep	basic set theory	ch. 2 §6.1
	23 Sep	basic set theory	ch. 2 §6.2
	25 Sep	basic set theory	ch. 2 §6.3–6.3.2
WEEK 5	28 Sep	basic English grammar	ch. 3 §2.3–3.2
	30 Sep	basic English grammar	ch. 3 §3.3
	2 Oct	basic English grammar	ch. 3 §3.4.1
WEEK 6	5 Oct	basic English grammar	ch. 3 §3.4.2–4
	7 Oct	language and context	ch. 4 §1–2 <i>Semantics: A Reader: ch. 39</i>
	9 Oct	language and context	ch. 4 §3–5
WEEK 7	12 Oct		no class
	14 Oct	language and belief	ch. 5 §1–2
	16 Oct	language and belief	ch. 5 §3–5
WEEK 8	19 Oct	classical propositional logic	ch. 6 §2 (up to §2.1.2)
	21 Oct	classical propositional logic	ch. 6 §2.1.3
	23 Oct	classical propositional logic	ch. 6 §2.2–2.2.2
WEEK 9	26 Oct	classical propositional logic	ch. 6 §2.2.3
	28 Oct	English connectors	ch. 8 §1–3
	30 Oct	English connectors	ch. 8 §4

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