

LING 665/LING 765

Semantics 4/Seminar in Semantics

Winter 2021
Tu,Th 2:30am–3:50pm
Zoom

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Office hours: W 9:00-10:00 or by appointment

Course description

This year's edition of Semantics 4/Seminar in Semantics will focus on extend the content of Semantics 3 in the following two different directions:

- **Clause types:** selected topics in the semantics of interrogatives.
- **Grammatical number:** selected topics relating to the semantics plural morphology.

These two directions of study overlap in important ways. For example, number marking on wh-phrases plays an important role in the semantics of wh-questions. Also, directions are naturally linked to related clusters of empirical issues, such as the syntax and semantics of wh-constructions, clause embedding predicates and modals, gradable predicates, and measurement expressions. We will explore some of those links in the course as well.

About remote delivery

Lectures will be delivered remotely through Zoom. A portion of each lecture will be dedicated to students practicing and solving problems in groups, using Zoom's "breakout room" function. Lectures will be based on detailed handouts, which will also be posted on myCourses. Other readings will be made available electronically on myCourses as well.

For general information about remote teaching, please read the Guidelines on Remote Teaching and Learning <https://www.mcgill.ca/tls/instructors/class-disruption/strategies/guidelines-remote>.

Regarding the recording of lectures, you will be notified through a "pop-up" box in Zoom if a lecture or portion of a class is being recorded. By remaining in sessions that are recorded, you agree to the recording, and you understand that your image, voice, and name may be disclosed to classmates. You also understand that recordings will be made available in myCourses to students registered in the course.

Requirements and evaluation

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homework assignments:	35%
presentation 1:	5%
presentation 2:	10%
paper:	50%

There will be between 4 and 8 homework assignments. Presentation 1 is intended to be a short (~10 minutes) report on a paper you've read or a problem you've thought about. Presentation 2 (~20 minutes), which may or may not build on Presentation 1, is intended to go more deeply into a problem, and be more informed by the literature. The final paper will ideally be based on your work for Presentation 2. The paper is expected to have the *potential* of serving as a stepping stone towards a more substantial research project (MA project or PhD Evaluation paper).

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Final grade will be Pass/Fail

homework assignments:	50%
one presentation:	50%

The presentation (~20 minutes) will be a report on some problem of your choice, informed by the literature.

Homework assignments

Each homework assignment will be made available one week before it is due. After a homework assignment is graded and returned, you will have an opportunity to revise your assignment and re-submit the revised version, taking into account written feedback you got on the original version. The revisions must be clearly marked typographically, e.g. by using colour.

Collaboration on homework assignments is permitted (in fact encouraged). However, you must write up your assignment independently, and list the students that you discussed the assignment with.

Course rules and procedures

Class handouts and readings

Will be made available on MyCourses.

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 <http://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 <http://www.mcgill.ca/integrity>).

Right to submit in French

In accord with McGill University's Charter of Students' Rights, students in this course have the right to submit in English or in French any written work that is to be graded.

Inclusiveness

As instructors of this course, we endeavor to provide an inclusive learning environment. However, if you experience barriers to learning in this course, do not hesitate to discuss them with us and the Office for Students with Disabilities, (514) 398-6009.