

PHILOSOPHY 594s: FORMAL SEMANTICS

GENERAL INFORMATION

Instructor Professor (Dr.) Gary Hardegree

Office	363 Bartlett Hall
Office Hours	TuTh by appointment
Phone	545-5788
EMail	gmh@philos.umass.edu
Personal Web Site	http://people.umass.edu/gmhwww
Course Web Site	http://people.umass.edu/gmhwww/595

Description

We usually understand *novel* sentences – e.g., this one – with little or no effort. How do we accomplish this? According to the received opinion, our linguistic knowledge/ability divides into two modules – roughly corresponding to:

- (1) words
- (2) rules

which in turn give rise respectively to

- (1) lexical semantics
- (2) compositional semantics.

The present course concerns Compositional Semantics – the study of how the meanings of complex linguistic expressions are constructed/derived from the meanings of their parts. We pursue this enterprise within the framework of Categorical Grammar, broadly understood.

Readings

All readings will be posted on the course website (see above), which will be frequently updated as the semester proceeds.

Requirements

There are no exams in this class.

Rather, you will be assigned eight (8) homework exercises over the course of the semester, to turn in for a grade. Each such assignment is regarded as a short paper in a graduate course, which means in particular that it is your responsibility to turn in a professional-looking (minimally, tidy and easy to read) product. Many times, this means writing more than one draft; I want the *final draft*, not your scribbles, cross-outs, and over-writes. I tolerate scribbles on exams only because of the time-constraints of exam-taking; I do not tolerate scribbles on homework.

Homework assignments will be posted from time to time on the course website, at which time the due-dates will also be posted. **Stay tuned!**

Study Groups

I encourage you to form study groups. Colette Lapointe (ColetteLaPointe@aol.com), who took this class spring 2007, has volunteered to help out with this. In this connection, the mailman email-list name for this class is the following [email to this address is directed to the members of the class].