Semantics and Discourse
Teacher:
Prof. Dr. Dylan Glynn, University of Paris 8, Vincennes-St. Denis
Cognitive Linguist, specialising in quantitative methodology, socio-cultural variation and lexico-grammatical semantics

Contact: dsg.up8@gmail.com
Downloads: www.dsglynn.univ-paris8.fr (password: student)
Class: Wednesday 16:45 – 18h15, virtual location, TBA
Office hours: 10h00-18h00 Friday, via Skype. (handle: izmoros)

Introduction
How do we understand each other? How do we know what words mean? How do we shape the experienced world? Meaning, or the symbolic representation of thought, is arguably fundamental not only to language but to all human society and civilization. Semantics is the scientific study of the structure of meaning in language. Discourse is the pragmatic use of how we express that meaning. This course examines the different ways that linguists try to answer fundamental questions about meaning structure and construction. Rather than focusing on the theories, the course seeks to encourage the students to ask questions themselves about how meaning is structured and how that structure is employed. To these ends, the course largely practical and asks the students to preform their own analyses and collect their own data.

Objectives
a. Understand the principle theories of how meaning is structured and expressed.
b. Propose hypotheses that explain how meaning is structured and expressed.
c. Collect data and perform a design an experiment to test those hypotheses.
d. Interpret results of the experiment and report them in a scientific manner.

Evaluation
Assessment will be expressed out of 100, following the ECTS norms (second version 2009). Conversion to Polish assessment traditions will based on norms established by UAM.

Class Participation:
This course is at least 50% practical and so participation is essential. Practical skills cannot be crammed or learnt from books and so if you get behind, if is effectively impossible to catch up. Although there will be no mark formally awarded for participation, failure to participate will almost surely result failure in the course.

Test: 20%
At the end of the theoretical part of the course, a short test will be completed.

Final Report: 80%
The assessment will be based on a report, which in turn, is based on the results of group work. The choice of topic will be determined by the students after in class discussion.
The marking of the final report is divided into 4 parts.
         Data Collection and Analysis: 20%
         Problem and Hypothesis: 20%
         Method and Results: 20%
         Professionalism: 20%

More details as to the expectation of each of these assessment categories will be given in class.

Course Outline

Week 1: **Semiotics and the Theoretical Foundations of Semantics**
Sign Theory, Concept, Signifier, Context
de Saussure, Peirce,

Week 2: **Conceptual Relations I**
Semasiology, onomasiology, synonymy, taxonomy, antonymy, Wortfeldtheorie
Trier, Geeraerts

Week 3: **Conceptual Relations II**
Syntagmatic vs. paradigmatic, lexical semantics and grammatical semantics
Talmy, Langacker

Week 4: **Grammatical Constructions and Frame Semantics**
Frame Semantics, Figure vs. ground, Gestalttheorie
Fillmore, Lakoff

Week 5: **Cognition, Conceptualisation and Categorisation I** – Prototype Set Theory and Classical Set Theory
Rosch, Lakoff

Week 6: **Cognition, Conceptualisation and Categorisation II** – Models of Language and Grammaticality
Modular *vs*. Non-Modular Grammar, Functional *vs*. Formal Grammar, Behaviourism *vs*, Mentalism
Langacker, Hopper

Week 7: **Cognition, Conceptualisation and Categorisation III** – Metaphors and the fluffy stuff ☺
Similarity, Contiguity, Integration, Iconicity
Lakoff, Fauconnier, Haiman

Week 8: **Subjectivity, Intersubjectivity and Discourse**
Appraisal Theory, Collocations and Implicit Communication
Benveniste, Halliday

Week 9: **Study Design and Test**
Sample / Population, Significance / Representativity, Dependent, Independent and Random Variables

Week 10: **Problematic and Hypothesis**
Group work- proposing research questions and semantic explanations

Week 11: **Types, Tokens, ad data collection**
Group work- KWICs, Corpora and extracting conextualised examples of use

Week 12: **Analysis I – Usage-Feature Analysis**
Group work- Semantic-Discourse Analysis Praxis

Week 13: **Analysis II – Usage-Feature Analysis**
Group work- Semantic-Discourse Analysis Praxis

Week 14: **Significance and Correlation**
Calculating and Interpreting the Chi2 and Pearson Residuals

Week 15: **IMRaD and report writing**
Final preparations for the individual reports

Reading

Readings will be placed on line during the course in electronic format.

Yule, G. 2014. *The Study of Language* (chapters 9, 10, 11, 20). Cambridge: CUP.

Ungerer, F. & Schmid, H.-J. 2006. *Introduction to Cognitive Linguistics*. London: Longman.

Reference Works

Bednarek, M. 2006. *Evaluation in Media Discourse*. London: Bloomsbury.

Bednarek, M. 2008. *Emotion Talk Across Corpora*. London: Palgrave.

Fillmore, C. 1985. Frames and the semantics of understanding. *Quaderni di Semantica* 6: 222–254.

Geeraerts, D. 1993. Vagueness's puzzles, polysemy's vagaries. Cognitive Linguistics 4: 223–272.

Geeraerts, D. 2010. *Theories of Lexical Semantics*. Oxford: OUP.

Glynn, D. 2016. Quantifying polysemy: Corpus methodology for prototype theory. *Folia Linguistica* 50: 413–447.

Glynn, D. & Fischer, K. 2010. *Quantitative methods in Cognitive Semantics*. Berlin: Mouton.

Glynn, D. & Robinson, J. 2014. *Corpus Methods for Semantics*. Amsterdam: Benjamins.

Gries, St. 2010. Behavioral profiles: A fine-grained and quantitative approach in corpus-based lexical semantics. *The Mental Lexicon* 5: 323–346.

Gries, St. & Stefanowitsch, A. 2006. *Corpora in Cognitive Linguistics*. Berlin: Mouton.

Kilgarriff, A. 1997. I don't believe in word senses. *Computers and the Humanities* 31: 91–113.

Lakoff, G. 1987. *Women, Fire, and Dangerous Things*. Chicago: UCP.

Langacker, R. 1987. *Foundations of Cognitive Grammar*. Stanford: SUP.

Martin, J. & White, P. 2005. Language of Evaluation. London: Palgrave.

Stefanowitsch A. & Gries St. Th. 2006. *Corpus-Based Approaches to Metaphor and Metonymy*. Berlin: Mouton.

Wierzbicka A. 1985. *Lexicography and Conceptual Analysis*. Ann Arbor: Karoma.

Wierzbicka, A. 1991. *Cross-Cultural Pragmatics*. Berlin: Mouton.