UNIVERSITATEA BABEȘ-BOLYAI
BABEȘ-BOLYAI TUDOMÁNYEGYETEM
BABEȘ-BOLYAI UNIVERSITÄT
BABEȘ-BOLYAI UNIVERSITY
TRADITIO ET EXCELLENTIA

Facultatea de Litere
Str. Horea nr. 31
400202, Cluj-Napoca
Tel: 0264 5322388
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COURSE SYLLABUS

1. Information about the study program

1.1 University	Babeș-Bolyai University
1.2 Faculty	The Faculty of Letters
1.3 Department	English language and literature
1.4 Field of study	Language and literature
1.5 Study cycle (BA/MA)	Master
1.6 Study program/Qualification	Current Trends in Linguistics (DAL)

2. Information about the subject

2.1 Course title/Code	**LME2237 Possible World Semantics (taught in English)**							
2.2 Course tutor	Professor Ștefan Oltean, PhD (stefan.oltean@ubbcluj.ro)							
2.3 Seminar tutor	Professor Ștefan Oltean, PhD (stefan.oltean@ubbcluj.ro)							
2.4 Year of study	1	2.5 Semester	2	2.6 Type of assessment	E	2.7 Course status	Contents	DA
							Mandatory	DO

3. Total estimated time (teaching hours per semester)

3.1 Number of hours per week	3	of which: 3.2 course	1	3.3 seminar/laboratory	2
3.4 Total number of hours in the curriculum	42	of which: 3.5 course	14	3.6 seminar/laboratory	28
Time distribution					Hours
Study based on textbook/course manual/recommended reading/personal notes					40
Additional research in the library, by accessing scientific databases, or during field work					30
Preparation for seminars/laboratory classes, essays, portfolios and reports					30
Tutoring					2
Assessment (examinations)					2
Other activities					4
3.7 Total hours for individual study	108				
3.8 Total hours per semester	150				
3.9 Number of credits	6				

4. Prerequisites (if necessary)

4.1 Curriculum	
4.2 Skills	

5. Conditions (if necessary)

5.1. For delivering lectures	• Classroom with blackboard, computer and overhead projector • During the course the students are required to respond to the teacher's request to engage in discussions and to answer the questions about the topic of the course.
5.2. For teaching seminars/laboratory classes	• The attendance of seminars is mandatory for all students. • At the beginning of each seminar, students must submit, at the teacher's request, the homework received in the previous seminar(s). • During the seminar, the students are required to solve applications at the teacher's request and to answer the questions related to the topic.

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6. Acquired specific competences

Professional competences	• C2.2 Appropriate use of scholarly literature • C3.2 Explanation of syntactical, semantic and pragmatic classifications of linguistic data, analysis of spoken and written discourse in the English language by using the conceptual framework of possible world semantics or truth-conditional semantics • Explanation and interpretation of meaning in natural languages • C5 Description of the grammatical and semantic system of natural languages in general and of English and Romanian in particular, and their use for text production and translation, and verbal interaction
Transversal competences	CT1 Using the instruments of linguistics and literary studies in accordance to professional ethics. CT2 Teamwork; interpersonal communication, taking on specific roles.

7. Course objectives (derived from the specific competences acquired)

7.1 General objective of course	The course examines the relevance of truth-conditional semantics and of possible world semantics for the study of meaning in natural language. It addresses the following issues: sense / reference; intension / extension; formal languages; predicate calculus; types of denotations; sets and types of functions; the lambda notation for functions; quantification; the standard theory of quantification; generalized quantifiers; possible worlds and intensional predicate calculus; possible worlds and types of sentences; transworld-identity; the ontological status of possible worlds; rigid designators and nonrigid designators (proper names, definite descriptions, fictional names); intensional constructions in natural languages: modality, tense; aspect, complementation, questions, exclamations; *de re* and *de dicto* readings; the semantics of adjectives; indexicality and the relevance of context for semantic analysis; possible worlds and the semantics fiction
7.2 Specific objectives	• Analysis of the relevance of formal, truth-conditional semantics, and of possible world semantics for the explanation of meaning in natural langauges • Description of the methodological framework of possible world semantics and of the way it relates to logic and philosophy • Use of the possible world framework to the semantic analysis of linguistic expressions

8. Contents

8.1 Lectures	Teaching methods	Remarks
Theories of meaning	enhanced lecture, debate, problem solving; handout, ppt	1 lecture
Sense / reference; intension / extension; arguments in favor of referential theories of meaning	enhanced lecture, debate, problem solving; handout, ppt	1 lecture
Formal languages and formalizations of meaning; predicate calculus; semantic value	enhanced lecture, debate, problem solving; handout, ppt	1 lecture
Types of denotation, sets and types of functions; the lambda notation for functions	enhanced lecture, debate, problem solving; handout, ppt	1 lecture
Compositionality of meaning	enhanced lecture, debate, problem solving; handout, ppt	1 lecture
The standard theory and the generalized theory of quantification	enhanced lecture, debate, problem solving; handout, ppt	2 lectures
Possible worlds and intensional predicate calculus; possible worlds and types of sentences; transworld identity; ontological status of possible worlds	enhanced lecture, debate, problem solving; handout, ppt	1 lecture
Rigid vs nonrigid designators (proper names, definite descriptions, fictional names)	enhanced lecture, debate, problem solving; handout, ppt	1 lecture

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Intensional constructions in natural languages: modality	enhanced lecture, debate, problem solving; handout, ppt	1 lecture
Intensional constructions in natural languages: tense and aspect	enhanced lecture, debate, problem solving; handout, ppt	1 lecture
Intensional constructions in natural languages: complementation, propositional attitudes, *de re* and *de dicto* readings	enhanced lecture, debate, problem solving; handout, ppt	1 lecture
Semantics of adjectives	enhanced lecture, debate, problem solving; handout, ppt	1 lecture
Indexicality and the relevance of context for semantic analysis	enhanced lecture, debate, problem solving; handout, ppt	1 lecture

Bibliography

1.Chierchia, Gennaro and Sally McConnell-Ginet. *Meaning and Grammar: An Introduction to Semantics*. Cambridge, Massachusetts: MIT Press, 2000

2. Heim, Irene and Angelika Kratzer. *Semantics in Generative Grammar*, Oxford: Blackwell, 1998

4. Von Fintel, Kay, Irene Heim, *Intensional Semantics*, MIT, 2010

5. Lewis, David. "Possible worlds". In Michael J. Loux (ed.). *The Possible and the Actual: readings in the metaphysics of modality*. Ithaca and London: Cornell University Press, 1979

6. Loux, Michael J. "Introduction: Modality and Metaphysics". In Michael J. Loux (ed.). *The Possible and the Actual: readings in the metaphysics of modality*. Ithaca and London: Cornell University Press, 1979

7. Moeschler, Jaques & Anne Reboul.. *Dicţionar enciclopedic de pragmatică*. Cluj: Editura Echinox, 1999

8. Oltean, Ștefan. *Introducere în semantica referenţială*. Cluj: Presa Universitară Clujeană, 2006

9. Oltean, Ștefan. *Topics in the Semantics of Names and Discourse*. Cluj: Casa Cărții de Știință, 2015

10. Oltean, Ștefan., "On the semantics of fictional names," *Revue Roumaine de Linguistique*, LVIII, 4, p. 371–382, 2013

11. Portner, P. H. *What Is Meaning? Fundamentals of Formal Semantics*. Oxford: Blackwell, 2005
12. Soames, Scott. *Beyond Rigidity. The Unfinished Semantic Agenda of 'Naming and Necessity*, Oxford, Oxford University Press, 2002.

8.2 Seminars	Teaching methods	Remarks
Formal languages: predicate calculs and propositional calculus; representations of sentence meaning	Debate, exercise and problem-solving based on applications provided by the instructor	1 seminar
Functional application and lambda notation; representations of the semantic value of nominals, transitive and intransitive verbs	Debate, exercise and problem-solving based on applications provided by the instructor	1 seminar
Compositionality of meaning: atomic sentences	Debate, exercise and problem-solving based on applications provided by the instructor	1 seminar
Quantification; standard quantifiers; quantifier scope; generalized quantifiers	Debate, exercise and problem-solving based on applications provided by the instructor	1 seminar

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Analytical sentences, synthetic sentences, *a priori* and *a posteriori* necessarily true sentences, contingently true sentences; exemplifications, exercises	Debate, exercise and problem-solving based on applications provided by the instructor	1 seminar
Transworld identity; its linguistic relevance: rigid and nonrigid designators; syntax and semantics of proper names; exemplifications, exercises	Debate, exercise and problem-solving based on applications provided by the instructor	1 seminar
Intensional constructions (modality, propositional attitudes); exemplifications	Debate, exercise and problem-solving based on applications provided by the instructor	2 seminars
Questions and exclamations	Debate, exercise and problem-solving based on applications provided by the instructor	1 seminar
De re and *de dicto* readings	Debate, exercise and problem-solving based on applications provided by the instructor	1 seminar
Tense and aspect	Debate, exercise and problem-solving based on applications provided by the instructor	1 seminar
The role of context in semantic analysis	Debate, exercise and problem-solving based on applications provided by the instructor	2 seminars
Possible worlds for fiction. Case study	Debate based on the novel *The Turn of the screw* by Henry James	1 seminar

Bibliography

1. Chierchia, Gennaro and Sally McConnell-Ginet. *Meaning and Grammar: An Introduction to Semantics*. Cambridge, Massachusetts: MIT Press, 2000

2. Heim, Irene and Angelika Kratzer. *Semantics in Generative Grammar*, Oxford: Blackwell, 1998

3. Von Fintel, Kay, Irene Heim, *Intensional Semantics*, MIT, 2010

4. Oltean, Ştefan. *Introducere în semantica referenţială*. Cluj: Presa Universitară Clujeană, 2006

5. Portner, P. H. *What Is Meaning? Fundamentals of Formal Semantics*. Oxford: Blackwell, 2005University Press
6. Salmon, Nathan. "Are General Terms Rigid?" *Linguistics and Philosophy*, 28, 117-134, 2005.

9. Validating course contents based on the expectations of epistemic communities, professional associations and of potential employers related to the field of study.

- The topics discussed are based on the international bibliography in this field;
- The instructor has publications in the fields of linguistics and semantics;

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- Part of the aspects discussed in the course and the seminar have been presented at international or national conferences

10. Assessment (examination)

Type of activity	10.1 Assessment criteria	10.2 Assessment methods	10.3 Weight in the final grade
10.4 Lecture	• Written exam with two subjects	Written exam	70%
10.5 Seminar	• Application of theoretical knowledge to the analysis of linguistic data	Students will be graded during the semester for solving applications, for their active and constructive involvement in conversations, for answering the questions related to the topic, for the solved homework received in previous seminar(s).	30%
10.6 Basic performance standard			
• The student understands the main concepts, recognizes them and uses them correctly • Capacity to use the basic, minimal, specialized language of semantics • At least 50 correct answers			
Organizational details, exceptional situation management: •			

Date 10.04.2022	Course tutor's signature	Seminar tutor's signature
Date of department endorsement 14.04.2022	Head of department's signature	
Date of Dean's endorsement	Signature of the vice-Dean in charge	Faculty stamp