

LING 120C: Semantics 1

Summer 2019, Session C

Instructor Information Maura O'Leary mauraoleary339@gmail.com Office Hours: MW 12-12:50 3103D Campbell Hall	Course Information Hours: MW 2-4:50 Location: Dodd 154
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1. About this course

1.1 Course Description:

Linguistics is a scientific field which studies human language. One of the major subfields of linguistics is semantics, the study of language meaning. In this course, you will learn how to look at meaning through a scientific lens; you will work to describe the meaning of natural language via logic and discuss the potential shortcomings of such an attempt.

1.2 In Class:

Class will involve lecture, discussion, short exercises, and brief quizzes. I will expect that you show up on time, participate, take notes, and behave respectfully towards myself and your classmates. In return, I will begin class on time, give two breaks (five minutes and ten minutes), attempt to be optimally clear, and behave with equal respect towards all of you.

Electronic devices:

No laptop, tablet, or cell phone usage will be allowed in class. Please come prepared to take notes by hand. Lecture slides will not be sent out.

1.3 Participation:

This course will be greatly enriched by students sharing ideas and asking your questions. If you have a question, there is probably at least one other person with the same question. Ask it; others will be grateful you did. Also, it is easiest to fix problems, mistakes, and miscommunications right away, so speaking up will help the class move forward more quickly.

Moreover, when I ask questions, I typically expect answers. Please answer! I will wait.

Some great times to speak up in class:

- I was speaking too quickly or not clearly enough.
- You don't understand my wording.
- You think I may have contradicted myself.
- You disagree with a point being made.
- You want to see an example of what we are talking about.
- I asked a question to the class!

1.4 Meeting with me:

Office hours:

I will hold two office hours each week. You should feel free to come in to discuss the material covered in class, or any further questions you may have. To get the most out of office hours, I recommend having specific questions ready to ask when you arrive, but I understand that sometimes the issue is not knowing how to frame your confusion.

You are also free to use my office hours as a work space—it can be helpful to be able to ask questions as they come up during the process of doing readings or assignments. Please note that I will sometimes turn to my own work if you are working on your own so that I do not make you uncomfortable. No matter what, though, I am always ready and excited to answer questions.

Discussion sections:

We do not have a TA for this class who could offer you a second point of view, and I did not believe that an extra hour of hearing me repeat materials on Thursdays would be beneficial. However, if you need to meet on another day besides MW, or cannot attend my office hours, I am happy to schedule a private meeting. If I cannot come to campus at any time when you are available, we can always meet over Skype.

Email:

The best way to contact me is by email. I will respond within 24 hours on weekdays and 48 hours on weekends, usually much less.

1.6 Course Websites:

Homework assignments and readings will be posted on the CCLE website. Announcements will be sent out through MyUCLA and grades will be posted on MyUCLA.

2. Course requirements and grading

2.1 Participation (5% of total grade):

You will earn 1% every time you speak up with a substantive question or answer a question in class or office hours. You will have more than enough opportunities to earn all 5%. To facilitate this, I ask that you say your name when you raise your hand.

2.2 Quizzes (20%):

There will be no midterm, but there will be daily quizzes. These quizzes will be given from during the first ten minutes of class every day and will cover material from the previous lecture. If you pay attention during lecture, they should not be difficult.

2.3 Homework (50%):

There will be a homework assignment due every class. The assignments due on Wednesdays will be significantly shorter since you will have less time to complete them.

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Homeworks will consist of either a series of questions asking you to think about or apply the topics discussed in class, or a reading and short response. Readings will be provided online in PDF format; there is no required textbook.

The lowest assignment score will be dropped. You are welcome to skip an assignment if you would like it to be the one that is dropped. However, I do recommend saving your “drop” in case of emergency—you never know when you are going to get sick!

Turning in assignments:

Assignments should be turned in prior to the beginning of class on the day they are due. Once I begin lecturing, assignments will no longer be accepted. Therefore, I recommend getting to class a few minutes early to make sure you turn the homework in on time. **No late assignments will be accepted.** If you cannot make it to class, you can drop off your homework in office hours or in the linguistics main office (3125 Campbell Hall). If you do this, get the staff there to time-stamp your work and then put it in my box (“O’Leary”).

Formatting:

Please format your assignments in a way that is easy to read. They do not have to be typed, but if they are handwritten they must be clear, legible, and written at a reasonable size. If you use more than one sheet of paper, please staple the sheets together. If you do not connect the pages, only the first page will be graded.

Collaboration:

Collaboration is allowed and encouraged! However, please list your collaborators at the top of your assignment, and make sure that you do your own write-up. Do not copy and paste from your friend’s assignment. (See the Academic Integrity policy below.)

2.4 Final (25%):

The final will take place during the last lecture, and will be similar to the format of the (non-reading) homework assignments. It will be cumulative.

2.5 Extra Credit:

Experimental participation:

You have the opportunity to earn up 2% in extra credit by participating in an experiment through the Psychology Department Subject Pool. Serving as a subject in an experiment provides students with direct exposure to psychological and linguistic research. By participating in experiments, you will have the opportunity to contribute to on-going research at UCLA while getting an inside glimpse of how research studies are conducted.

One credit is given for every “hour” of experiment participation. If you complete 2 hours of experiments, you will have **2% added to your final grade at the end of the quarter.** (If you complete 1 hour, 1% will be added to your grade.) Note that experiments are listed by the hour, you may end up being a participant in an experiment that takes less than an hour. Nonetheless, you will receive the hour of credit for the purpose of this class.

The posting and scheduling of experiments is handled via the Psychology Department Subject Pool system at <http://ucla.sona-systems.com/>. More information on how to use the system can be found at <http://www.psych.ucla.edu/undergraduate/subject-pool-experiment-participation>.

NOTE: Before signing up for experiments, you must select the course for which you want your

experiment credits to count. **All experiments for Summer Session C 2019 must be completed by September 10th, 2019 (Tuesday of 6th Week).**

Bringing in examples:

You may also earn up to 2% of extra credit by bringing in good examples of the topics discussed in class. These examples may consist of a video clip, a quotation from an article, a comic strip, a meme, etc. Each *good* example (subject to my discretion) must have a source and will earn you 0.5% extra credit. You may repeat this up to four times.

2.6 Grading Summary:

Participation	5%
Quizzes	20%
Homework	50%
Final	25%
Extra Credit	4%

3. Other important notes

3.1 Academic integrity:

As a member of the UCLA community, you are expected to engage in honesty and integrity with respect to your work here at the university. This includes efforts made on your own work, that of friends and colleagues, and group/collaborations as well. Examples of academic dishonesty (from the Office of the Dean of Students' website:

<http://www.studentgroups.ucla.edu/dos/students/integrity/>) include (but are not limited to) plagiarism, multiple submissions, cheating, fabrication, or **facilitation** of any of these activities.

Any evidence of academic dishonesty will be reported to the Office of the Dean of Students. If you have any questions on what is considered academic dishonesty or how to properly cite a source, there are resources available, such as

<http://guides.library.ucla.edu/content.php?pid=133097&sid=1141459>.

3.2 Accommodations for students with disabilities:

Students with a documented disability (visible or non-visible) with the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD) should be in contact with both them and me as soon as possible to ensure that the appropriate accommodations are made in a timely fashion. If you believe you may have a disability, please see the OSD for more information: <http://www.osd.ucla.edu/Index.htm>.

3.3 Writing Center

The Undergraduate Writing Center offers UCLA undergraduates free, one-on-one feedback and support on their writing. The UWC is staffed by Peer Learning Facilitators (PLFs), fellow students who understand the challenges of writing at UCLA. PLFs are trained to help at any stage in the writing process, with writing assignments from any class, as well as research projects and application materials. They tailor meetings to the concerns of each writer.

Book an appointment or learn more: uwc.ucla.edu
Phone: 310-206-1320 / Email: wcenter@g.ucla.edu