

LINGUIST 230P: Advanced Pragmatics

Instructors

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Goals and assessment

To familiarize themselves with the debates in pragmatics, students will read and present relevant papers. Students taking the course for two units are expected to read, present, and participate. This includes posting a paragraph of questions / comments / reactions in the Discussion section on Canvas by Monday evening before class every week. Students taking the course for four units are additionally expected to submit a final paper.

Schedule

The course will meet Tuesdays from 3-5:50pm on Zoom (see Canvas for meeting link).

Introductory material

Core readings in regular font. Supplementary/optional readings in italics.

Week 1 -- Apr 7

[Grice 1957, 'Meaning'](#)

[Grice 1975, 'Logic and conversation'](#)

[Levinson, 'Speech acts' \[Handout\]](#)

[*Harris et al. 2018, 'Speech acts: The contemporary theoretical landscape'*](#)

Common ground & perspective taking

Week 2 -- Apr 14 (Elisa)

[Clark & Marshall 1981, "Definite reference and mutual knowledge"](#)

[Clark & Wilkes-Gibbs 1986, "Referring as a collaborative process"](#)

[*Brown-Schmidt 2012, "Beyond common and privileged"*](#)

Presupposition, dynamics, nonassertive meaning

Week 3 -- Apr 21

[Lewis 1979, 'Scorekeeping in a language game'](#) (Atticus)
[Roberts 1996/2012, 'Information Structure: Towards an integrated formal theory of pragmatics'](#) (Atticus)
[Potts 2015, 'Implicature and presupposition'](#)

Week 4 -- Apr 28

[Heim 1988, 'On the projection problem for presuppositions'](#) (Jiayi) [[handout](#)]
Simons, Beaver, Roberts, & Tonhauser, 2017, [The Best Question: Explaining the Projection Behavior of Factives](#) (Richard)
[Heim 1983, 'File change semantics and the familiarity theory of definiteness'](#)
[Beaver 2001, 'Have you noticed that your Belly Button Lint colour is related to the colour of your clothing?'](#)
Tonhauser, Beaver, and Degen 2018, ['How projective is projective content? Gradience in projectivity and at-issueness'](#)

Week 5 -- May 5

Potts 2007, ['Into the conventional-implicature dimension'](#) (Ced) [[Handout](#)]
[Nunberg 2018, 'The social life of slurs'](#) (Andrew) [[Handout](#)]
[Henderson & McCreedy 2019, 'Dogwhistles, Trust, and Ideology'](#)
[Potts 2006, 'The expressive dimension'](#)

Implicature

Week 6 -- May 12

Levinson, *Presumptive Meanings*, [Introduction](#) and [chapter 1](#) (skip section 1.6, pp.54-63) (Taranee) [[Handout](#)]
[Chierchia, Fox, & Spector 2012, 'The Grammatical View of Scalar Implicatures and the Relationship between Semantics and Pragmatics'](#) (Jiayi) [[Handout](#)]
[Huang, 'Implicature'](#)

Week 7 -- May 19

[Huang & Snedeker 2009](#) (Ced)
[Degen 2015](#) (Andrew) [[Handout](#)]
[Bott & Noveck 2004](#)

[Schuster, Chen, & Degen \(to appear\)](#)

Week 8 -- May 26

Chapters 1-2 of [Franke 2009, Signal to Act: Game Theory in Pragmatics](#) (Taranee)

Goodman & Frank 2016, '[Pragmatic language interpretation as probabilistic inference](#)'
(Sebastian)

[Franke & Bergen 2020, 'Theory-driven statistical modeling for semantics & pragmatics: A case study on grammatically generated implicature readings'](#)

[Potts et al 2016, 'Embedded implicatures as pragmatic inferences under compositional lexical uncertainty'](#)

Social meaning

Week 9 -- Jun 2

[Selection from Brown & Levinson, Politeness](#) (Richard)

[Pages 55-75, 91-111, 117-124, and 129-144]

[Matsumoto, 'Reexamination of the universality of face'](#) (Harumi)

[Yoon, Tessler, Goodman & Frank](#) (Sebastian)

[Goffman, 'On face-work'](#)

[Bonnefon, Feeney, and Villejoubert 2009 'When some is actually all: Scalar inferences in face-threatening contexts'](#)

Week 10 -- Jun 9

[Acton & Potts 2014](#) (Harumi)

[Burnett 2019](#)

[Eckert 2012](#)