Syllabus

Advanced Introduction to Semantics - 36851

Last update 20-10-2015

HU Credits: 4

Degree/Cycle: 2nd degree (Master)

Responsible Department: linguistics

Academic year: 0

Semester: 1st Semester

Teaching Languages: English

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Luka Crnic

Coordinator Email: luka.crnic@mail.huji.ac.il

Coordinator Office Hours: Mo 16-17

Teaching Staff:
Dr. Luka Crnic
Course/Module description:
This course is an advanced introduction to formal semantics and presupposes some previous exposure to it. In the course, we plan to extend Heim & Kratzer’s (1998) semantic framework to encompass situation semantics. Provisionally, there will be four interwoven topics that we will focus on in the course: (i) binding (theory), (ii) plurality, (iii) ellipsis and focus, and (iv) intensional phenomena. However, prior to tackling these topics, we will (re-)establish shared semantic foundations by looking at the syntax and semantics of quantification and binding (in a situation-theoretic framework).

Course/Module aims:
The aim of this course is to provide a thorough introduction to several advanced issues in formal semantics as well as present the cutting-edge research on these issues.

The objective is to improve the students' general understanding of the mathematical tools used in formal semantics, esp., tools used in relation to the issues discussed in the course.

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:
The three main learning outcomes are:

(i) The students will have a rigorous background and understanding of the advanced mathematical and logical tools used in formal semantics (esp. in the study of focus, ellipsis, and anaphora resolution).

(ii) The students' will have a deeper understanding of certain key concepts in logic and philosophy of language such as compositionality, type theory, lambda abstraction.

(iii) The students will be able to read and do cutting-edge research on focus, ellipsis, and anaphora resolution.

Attendance requirements(%):
100

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: Weekly lectures.
Course/Module Content:
  Quantification and binding
  1. A movement and its interpretation. 2. Definite descriptions, presupposition, and pronouns. 3. Binding theory.

Plurality
  1. Distributivity, cumulativity, and collectivity. 2. Conjunction and disjunction. 3. Reciprocals. 4. Different, same.

Required Reading:
  • Heim, Irene. 2009. Forks in the Road to Rule I. Semantics Archive.

Additional Reading Material:
Proceedings form the
Stuttgart Ellipsis Workshop. Institut fuer maschinelle Sprachverarbeitung, University of Stuttgart.


Course/Module evaluation:
End of year written/oral examination 0 %
Presentation 0 %
Participation in Tutorials 0 %
Project work 0 %
Assignments 50 %
Reports 0 %
Research project 50 %
Quizzes 0 %
Other 0 %

Additional information:
There will be bi-weekly homework assignments.

A short paper is to be submitted on the last day of class.