

Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur

Humanities and Social Sciences

ENG447: Cognitive Linguistics

Semester: 2017-18-II

Instructor: Achla M. Raina

January 04, 2018

First Course Handout

Course Objective:

The course investigates the relationship that natural language bears to human cognition. Various constructs in linguistic theory are explored from a cognitivist perspective in an attempt to understand the intersection between linguistic and conceptual systems.

Course Prerequisites: Interest in issues of language and cognition will help. Prior exposure to linguistics/cognitive science is desirable.

Topics to be covered in the available 40 lectures:

1. Introductory: What is language for? What do Linguists do? What does it mean to *know* a language? [5 Lectures]
2. Cognitive Linguistics: Beginnings of Cognitive Linguistics; Generative Grammars; Cognitive Linguistics today: assumptions and commitments [5 Lectures]
3. Universals and variation in language, thought and experience; Crosslinguistic patterns and variations in semantic systems; Linguistic relativity and cognitive linguistics [5 Lectures]
4. Language in Use: Usage-based knowledge of language; Language change; Language acquisition [5 Lectures]
5. Cognitive Semantics: Embodiment and conceptual structure; Encyclopedic view of meaning; Categorisation and prototyping; Metaphor and metonymy [5 Lectures]
6. Word Meaning: Polysemy as a conceptual phenomenon [5 Lectures]
7. Cognitive Pragmatics: Truth conditional semantics; Implicature and explicature [4 Lectures]
8. Cognitive Approaches to Grammar: Conceptual basis of Grammar; Word classes; Constructions; Tense, mood and aspect [5 Lectures]
9. Discussion: Evaluating approaches to language-cognition interface [1 Lecture]

Readings and Resources:

Evans, V. and Melanie Green. 2006. *Cognitive Linguistics: An Introduction*. Edinburg University Press.

Jackendoff, R. 2000. *Foundations of Language*. OUP.

Langacker, R.W. 2008. *Cognitive Grammar: A Basic Introduction*. Oxford University Press,

Pinker, Steven. 1997. *How the Mind works*. Norton. Or any other book by Pinker, e.g., *The Language Instinct*, *Words and Rules* etc.

A selection of articles from the following journals:

Cognition [Science Direct]

Cognitive Science [Science Direct]

Cognitive Linguistics [Science Direct]

Soft copies of the reading material will be provided wherever available, otherwise placed in A-ONE Photocopy Centre for easy access.

Schedule: WThF: 11:00-11:50am

Office Hours: Tuesday, 5:00-6:00pm, FB324

Evaluation Components:

Mid Semester Exam	: 20%
End Semester Examination	: 40%
Reading Assignments	: 20%
End Term Paper	: 15%
Class Participation	: 05%

Course Policies:

- Be in class at 11:00am sharp. Late comers will not be allowed in.
- Be regular. Attendance will be randomly monitored.
- Be attentive while in class. Requests for class notes will not be entertained, except when lectures are descriptive.
- Feel free to seek clarifications when a point appears unclear.
- Raise questions and counter questions: this will be your contribution to the course.
- Submit assignments on time.
- Readings are meant to be read. Exams/assignments will probe your reading abilities apart from your listening and thinking abilities.
- **Use of available resources without due acknowledgement, and other kinds of unfair practices including cheating in exams are seriously discouraged.**
- If you have an interesting thought, share it with the entire class and not just your neighbour.
- Leave the class if you are sleepy. Do not wait to be asked to leave.

How to reach me:

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