Hi class! We'll meet Tuesday mornings 9:45-11:45. This is a class aimed at first year PhD students in Linguistics, but we also welcome undergraduates who have either already taken Ling 106 or have a strong foundation in logic (from math or computer science courses).

Our primary textbook for this course will be [An Invitation to Formal Semantics](#) (updated January 2024) by Elizabeth Coppock and Lucas Champollion, which we will also supplement with other important readings.

The instructor is [Kate Davidson](#). The best ways to contact me before the course gets started is via email (not Canvas messages)

Grades are based on four important things we value in graduate training in Linguistics:

- **Close reading**: Comments and questions on the readings (around which our in class time will be organized) will be due every Monday evening, so that we can discuss them on Tuesday morning in class led by Prof. Davidson. (25% of grade)
- **Teaching**: Students will take turns (one student each week) giving short (<10 minute) presentations of a key concept from the week. (5% of grade)
- **Honing the skill set**: Weekly short homeworks are due Sunday evenings, with time in class on Tuesdays, together outside of class, and in office hours dedicated to discussing them together (50% of grade). Assuming the class remains small, we will schedule weekly 1-1 meetings for 20 mins with each student to hone these skills instead of a general office hour.
- **Taking a leap on a new idea and writing it up**: The final for this class will be a short research paper ("squib") on a topic in semantics, roughly 10-15 pages. (20% of grade)

A possibly helpful comparison to other courses: for undergraduates with basic background in, say, an introductory linguistics course (101 or 83) and/or undergraduate syntax, you might want to take **Ling 106** instead**, which is taught this spring 2025 by Prof. Holliday**. This course, **Ling 116**, is designed for our PhD first year cohort to learn the formal semantics skills they'll need as linguists, and presumes some more knowledge and assumes you'll put in more effort than an undergraduate-only linguistics course. If you are an advanced undergraduate and want to learn more semantics and focus on a research based component for a final, then you may consider taking this course. This fall I am also offering **Ling 132** with Prof. Snedeker in the Psychology department, which will be less formally technical and less homework but much more reading, and the reading will be less textbook and more journal articles describing psycholinguistics experiments; for that course background in psychology and cognitive science will be useful.