INSTRUCTOR Dr. Prerna Nadathur (prerna.nadathur@phil.hhu.de)

Office 24.53.00.87

CLASS SCHEDULE Tuesday 8.30-10.00
CLASS LOCATION 24.21.U1.21 (Z50)

COURSE WEBSITE pnadathur.github.io/lexsem-2019.html

All course materials will be posted on the website.

## DESCRIPTION

Lexical semantics involves the linguistic study of meaning at the word level and below, focusing on what words mean, how these meanings can be analyzed and broken down into basic concepts, and how the meanings of individual words or word classes affect inference and interpretation at the phrasal or sentential level. This course examines a number of questions in these areas, including: how are the meanings of words determined from their internal morphological structure? What rules govern systematic correspondences between word classes? How does the meaning of a word govern its syntactic properties and its interaction with other elements of the compositional system? What kinds of information can be lexically encoded? How can we use empirical evidence from use and interpretation to access and establish the internal structure of words? Topics include the lexicon and lexical decomposition, lexical aspect and its connections to the mass/count distinction in nouns, and the inferential properties of words (factivity, implicativity, scalar inferences). This course is intended for students who have some background in semantics and pragmatics.

## Policies

- (i) **Readings.** Readings should be completed before the class for which they are assigned. All readings can be downloaded from the course webpage. To access the reading list, you will need the course password: aktionsart.
- (ii) **Assignments.** Assignments will be given every 2-3 weeks. They will be made available on Tuesdays on the course webpage, and are due by 2pm on the following Tuesday. They can be submitted in class, by email, or dropped off in the 'Lexical Semantics' tray in 24.53.00.86.
- (iii) **Participation.** To receive credit points (Kreditpunkten, Beteiligungsnachweis) for participation, you must complete all of the assignments.
- (iv) **Final exam/Abschlussprüfung.** In order to qualify for the AP, you must take and pass a final exam. You can apply for the AP using the appropriate forms for your course of study, available in the linguistics department office (24.53.00.86). The final exam for this class will be a take-home paper, consisting of several short answer or essay questions (similar to the assignments).

- (v) Language. Lectures and assignments will be given in English. You are strongly encouraged to complete the assignments in English: assignments completed in English will be graded solely for content, and will NOT be penalised for grammatical mistakes. If you would prefer to complete assignments in German, please let me know in advance so that I can make arrangements for grading. If you intend to apply for the AP and wish to take the final exam in German, please let me know by 17 December.
- (vi) Academic integrity. Academic dishonesty and plagiarism are strictly prohibited. You are welcome to use the library, textbooks, journal articles, and other resources in completing the assignments, but you must cite any sources that you use. Quoted material in particular must be attributed, including page numbers where possible. You are also welcome to work with other students to solve the problems, but you must write up your solutions independently, in your own words. You may NOT work with other students on the final exam.
- (vii) **Electronic devices.** As a courtesy to other students, please do not use cell phones during class. You may use a laptop to take notes.

Course Plan (subject to revision)

Readings should be completed prior to the class for which they are assigned.

1. Introduction and course overview	08.10.2019
2. Sense relations, polysemy  Reading: Cruse 1995; Dölling (to appear)	15.10.2019
3. Lexical encoding, types of lexical information Reading: Fillmore 1969, 1971; McCawley 1979	$22.10.2019 \\ Assignment \ 1 \ due$
4. Lexical information across categories, grammatical regularities Reading: Clark & Clark 1979; Kiparsky 1997	29.10.2019
5. Nouns: sense/reference, kinds, the mass/count distinction Reading: Carlson 1977; Wierzbicka 1988; Chierchia 2010	$05.11.2019 \\ Assignment \ 2 \ due$
6. Adjectives: concepts, antonymy, vagueness Reading: Dixon 1982; Hale 1971	12.11.2019
7. Adjectives: gradability, scales, pragmatic enrichment Reading: Sapir 1944; Kennedy & McNally 1999; Horn 1984	$19.11.2019 \\ Assignment \ 3 \ due$
8. Lexical meaning and grammatical structure: thematic roles and argument selection 26.11.2019	

- 8. Lexical meaning and grammatical structure: thematic roles and argument selection 26.11.2019 Reading: Dowty 1979; Davis 2011; Levin & Rappaport Hovav 2005 (excerpts)
- 9. Argument structure and alternations 03.12.2019
  Reading: Fillmore 1970; Dowty 1991; Rappaport Hovav & Levin 2012 Assignment 4 due
- 10. Lexical and analytical causatives

  Reading: Fodor 1970; McCawley 1978; Wierzbicka 1998

11. Manner/result duality
Reading: Slobin 1996; Rappaport Hovav & Levin 2010
12. Aspectual classes and temporal properties
Reading: Vendler 1957, Dowty 1977, Mittwoch 2019

13. Compositional theories of lexical aspect
Reading: Bach 1986; Krifka 1989; Rappaport Hovav 2008

14. Inferential properties of words (factives, implicatives, aspectual verbs)
Reading: Kiparsky & Kiparsky 1970; Karttunen 1971
15. Review class
17.12.2019
17.12.2019
17.12.2019
27.01.2020
28.01.2020
28.01.2020

## References

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