

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	<a href="https://pnadathur.github.io/lexsem-winter19.html">pnadathur.github.io/lexsem-winter19.html</a> All course materials will be posted on the website.

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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.

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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)

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

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| 1. Introduction and course overview  | 08.10.2019                            |
| 2. Sense relations, polysemy<br><i>Reading:</i> Cruse 1995; Dölling (to appear)  | 15.10.2019                            |
| 3. Lexical encoding, types of lexical information<br><i>Reading:</i> Fillmore 1969, 1971; McCawley 1979  | 22.10.2019<br><i>Assignment 1 due</i> |
| 4. Lexical information across categories, grammatical regularities<br><i>Reading:</i> Clark & Clark 1979; Kiparsky 1997  | 29.10.2019                            |
| 5. Nouns: sense/reference, kinds, the mass/count distinction<br><i>Reading:</i> Carlson 1977; Wierzbicka 1988; Chierchia 2010  | 05.11.2019<br><i>Assignment 2 due</i> |
| 6. Adjectives: concepts, antonymy, vagueness<br><i>Reading:</i> Dixon 1982; Hale 1971  | 12.11.2019                            |
| 7. Adjectives: gradability, scales, pragmatic enrichment<br><i>Reading:</i> Sapir 1944; Kennedy & McNally 1999; Horn 1984  | 19.11.2019<br><i>Assignment 3 due</i> |
| 8. Lexical meaning and grammatical structure: thematic roles and argument selection<br><i>Reading:</i> Dowty 1979; Davis 2011; Levin & Rappaport Hovav 2005 (excerpts) | 26.11.2019                            |
| 9. Argument structure and alternations<br><i>Reading:</i> Fillmore 1970; Dowty 1991; Rappaport Hovav & Levin 2012  | 03.12.2019<br><i>Assignment 4 due</i> |
| 10. Lexical and analytical causatives<br><i>Reading:</i> Fodor 1970; McCawley 1978; Wierzbicka 1998  | 10.12.2019                            |
| 11. Manner/result duality<br><i>Reading:</i> Slobin 1996; Rappaport Hovav & Levin 2010   | 17.12.2019                            |

12. Aspectual classes and temporal properties	07.01.2020
<i>Reading:</i> Vendler 1957, Dowty 1977, Mittwoch 2019	<i>Assignment 5 due</i>
13. Compositional theories of lexical aspect	14.01.2020
<i>Reading:</i> Bach 1986; Krifka 1989; Rappaport Hovav 2008	
14. Inferential properties of words (factives, implicatives, aspectual verbs)	21.01.2020
<i>Reading:</i> Kiparsky & Kiparsky 1970; Karttunen 1971	
15. Review class	28.01.2020

## REFERENCES

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