

Faculty of Arts and Letters



FLTR2270 General linguistics : semantics

[30h] 3 credits

This course is taught in the 2nd semester

Teacher(s): Elisabeth Degand
Language: French
Level: Second cycle

Aims

At the end of the course, the students should:

- have developed knowledge of the explanatory principles and foundations in semantics,
- have developed the ability to transfer theoretical linguistic knowledge of semantics to everyday language situations,
- have acquired a deep understanding of the different current approaches in semantics.

Main themes

The course gives an overview of the different theoretical and methodological approaches to semantics. Traditional approaches in lexical and sentence semantics are confronted with the more recent advances in discourse and cognitive semantics.

Content and teaching methods

After a brief overview of semantics in linguistics, the course considers the role of semantics on the different levels of abstraction in the linguistic system: lexical semantics (word meaning: componential analysis vs. prototype theory), situation semantics (sentence meaning: reference, entailment, propositional and predicate logic), and discourse semantics (implicature, genre and register, cohesion and coherence). Finally, a general overview is given of cognitive semantics (conceptual metaphor theory, image schema's, mental spaces). All theoretical concepts are illustrated with concrete everyday language examples. The course requires the student's active participation in discussions, in reading scientific texts, in resolving exercises.

Other information (prerequisite, evaluation (assessment methods), course materials recommended readings, ...)

Pré-requis Introduction to linguistics.

Evaluation Written exam.

Support 1. Written overview of the course, 2. scientific articles/chapters in books, 3. bibliography, 4. exercises

Other credits in programs

CLAS21	Première licence en langues et littératures classiques	(3 credits)
LING21MA	Première année du master en linguistique, à finalité approfondie en linguistique générale et appliquée	(4 credits)
LING21MS	Première année du master en linguistique, à finalité spécialisée en ingénierie linguistique	(4 credits)
LOGO22	Deuxième licence en logopédie (programme commun UCL/ULB)	(4 credits)
ROM21	Première licence en langues et littératures romanes	(3 credits)
ROM22	Deuxième licence en langues et littératures romanes	(3 credits)