UCLouvain

2021

General linguistics : semantics and pragmatics

5.00 credits

30.0 h

Q1

Teacher(s)	Degand Elisabeth ;				
Language :	French > English-friendly				
Place of the course	Louvain-la-Neuve				
Prerequisites	Introduction to linguistics The prerequisite(s) for this Teaching Unit (Unité d'enseignement – UE) for the programmes/courses that offer this Teaching Unit are specified at the end of this sheet.				
Main themes	The course gives an overview of the different theoretical and methodological approaches to semantics and pragmatics. Traditional approaches in lexical and sentence semantics are confronted with the more recent advances in discourse and cognitive semantics, thus opening the way to pragmatic theories.				
Learning outcomes	 At the end of this learning unit, the student is able to : At the end of the course, the students should: have developed knowledge of the explanatory principles and foundations in semantics and pragmatics, have developed the ability to transfer theoretical linguistic knowledge of semantics to everyday language situations, have acquired a good understanding of the different approaches in semantics and pragmatics. 				
Evaluation methods	Oral exam (33% exercices, 67% theoretical questions)				
Teaching methods	The course contains ex catheadra lectures but it also requires the students active participation in resolving online exercices to be realised: « Langue et Parole » (parcours « sémantique ») Training exercises will also be given in class. For certain chapters, a flipped classroom format will be progressively put in place in order to ensure active participation by all.				
Content	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 logic), and discourse semantics (implicature, cohesion and coherence). Also, a general overview is given of cognitive semantics (conceptual metaphor theory, image schema's, mental spaces) and a number of pragmatic theories (speech act theory, relevance theory). All theoretical concepts are illustrated with concrete everyday language examples.				
Inline resources	Slides, exercises and bibliography on Moodle				
Bibliography	Disponible sur Moodle				
Other infos	English-friendly course: course taught in French but offering facilities in English.				
Faculty or entity in charge	FIAL				

Programmes containing this learning unit (UE)						
Program title	Acronym	Credits	Prerequisite	Learning outcomes		
Bachelor in Modern Languages and Literatures : General	ROGE1BA	5	LFIAL1530	٩		
Minor in Linguistics	MINLING	5		٩		
Bachelor in Modern Languages and Literatures: German, Dutch and English	GERM1BA	5	LFIAL1530	¢		