

LIGN 247 / PHIL 234 - Context sensitivity and the appeal of the hidden Spring 2012

This course is a graduate-level seminar on linguistic elements and constructions whose interpretation exhibits sensitivity to the context of utterance that has been accounted for by assuming hidden elements in the linguistic structure. We'll focus on some paradigmatic cases with two main goals: to understand the main aspects of the individual puzzles and to try to look for commonalities in the data, the hidden elements that have been postulated, and/or the nature of the supporting arguments.

Lectures

Wednesday 2-4:50 pm, HSS 7077

Instructors

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Readings

- The readings are listed on the schedule below and are available for you to download as pdf files. They are password protected and each of you should have received ID and password from the instructors by e-mail.
- Readings are required and should be done prior to class.

Evaluation

- Class participation and readings
- Guiding the discussion of two papers among the readings (with handouts and/or slides)
- In-class presentation of (a preliminary version of) the final paper
- Final paper: research paper not a book report or article review (15-25 pages)

SCHEDULE

(last update: 03/26/2012)

- **WARNING!** If you try to download the password protected material from your personal computer with a browser that have the UCSD proxy on, you may get a failure message before even entering your ID and password. Two solutions: 1) use a different browser without a UCSD proxy, or 2) turn off the UCSD proxy on your usual browser so that you can enter your own password for the class website, since apparently the proxy does it automatically.
- The schedule below is tentative and will be updated through out the course. Make sure to check it regularly!

WEEKS & DAYS	TOPICS (tentative! changes may still occur before the course starts)	READINGS (tentative! readings may be added or replaced before the course starts)
wk 1	4/4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction
wk 2	4/11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview • Indexicals and demonstratives: character, content, double indexing (Part I) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kaplan, <u>Demonstratives</u> required: Preface, Sections I-VI (both parts), VIII, XI, XIII, XIV, and as much of the formal system and remarks (Sections XVIII-XIX) as you can suggested: the whole paper
wk 3	4/18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gradable adjectives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kennedy, <u>Vagueness and Grammar: The Semantics of Relative and Absolute Gradable</u>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Predicates</u> • Klein, <u>Comparatives</u>
wk 4	4/25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Semantic coercion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pylkkänen & McElree, <u>The syntax-semantic interface: On-line composition of sentence meaning</u> (Sections 3.2.1-3.2.3)
wk 5	5/2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hidden variables and domain restriction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stanley, <u>Nominal Restriction</u> • Stanley & Szabo, <u>On Quantifier Domain Restriction</u>
wk 6	5/9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diagnostics (I) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partee, <u>Binding Implicit Variables in Quantified Contexts</u> • Recanati, <u>Literal Meaning, ch7</u> • Bhatt and Pancheva, <u>Implicit Arguments</u> • Cappelen & Hawthorne, <u>Relativism and Monadic Truth, ch2</u> • Caponigro & Cohen, <u>On Collection and Covert Variables</u>
wk 7	5/16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diagnostics (II) 	
wk 8	5/23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contextualism and relativism 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stanley, <u>Knowledge and</u>

Practical
Interests, ch3

- Schaffer, Perspective in Taste Predicates and Epistemic Modals
- Lasersohn, Context dependence, disagreement, and predicates of personal taste
- von Fintel and Gillies, CIA Leaks
- Glanzberg, Context, Content, and Relativism

wk 9

5/30

• OPEN

SOME SUGGESTIONS:

- Partee, Some structural analogies between tenses and pronouns in English
- Glanzberg, Not All Contextual Parameters Are Alike
- Cohen, Indexicality and the Puzzle of the Answering Machine
- Egan, Billboards, Bombs, and Weddings
- Rabern, Against the identification of assertoric content with compositional

value

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| wk 10 | 6/6 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students' presentations of their own papers |
| Finals week | 6/13 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Final papers are due by 5 pm to Jonathan or Ivano in person or by e-mail (please send a pdf file if you are choosing the e-mail option) |

Useful links

- *SemanticsBabble* (UCSD group)
- *Semantics Archive* (open access paper archive)
- *Linguistics and Philosophy* (journal)
- *Semantics and Pragmatics* (open access journal)
- *Natural Language Semantics* (journal)
- *Journal of Semantics* (journal)
- *SALT (Semantics And Linguistic Theory)* (conference)
- *SuB (Sinn und Bedeutung)* (conference)

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