
INSTRUCTOR	Perna Nadathur (pnadathur@berkeley.edu)
OFFICE HOURS	By appointment
CLASS SCHEDULE	Tu/Th 8.00-9.29am
COURSE WEBSITE	bcourses.berkeley.edu/courses/1496855 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).

POLICIES

- (i) **Readings.** Readings should be completed before the class for which they are assigned. All readings can be downloaded from the course webpage.
- (ii) **Homework.** Assignments will be given roughly every 2 weeks. They are due by midnight on the due date, and should be submitted via bCourses, in PDF format. Homework is worth 50% of your overall grade. Late homework (except in cases of prior approval) will be reduced in value by 20% for each day it is late. Your lowest homework grade will be dropped.
- (iii) **Participation.** You are expected to attend class (as many sessions as possible) and to participate in the discussion. Participation is worth 10% of your overall grade. (If you are in a timezone which makes synchronous participation difficult, or have limited internet access for participation via videoconference/Zoom, let me know and we will find an alternative way to measure participation.)
- (iv) **Exams.** There will be a take-home midterm exam and a cumulative take-home final, worth 15% and 25% of your grade, respectively. Late exams will only be accepted in exceptional circumstances (you should communicate with me about this).
- (v) **Emergencies and personal situations.** If something comes up during the semester that affects your ability to participate or will affect your performance, please do not hesitate to get

in touch with me. I want you to succeed in this (and your other classes), and I understand that issues arise (especially now!). The earlier you talk to me, the more likely I am to be able to work with you to find a solution. If you have a major life emergency, you should contact the office of the Dean of Students (<https://deanofstudents.berkeley.edu/>).

- (vi) **Special needs.** If you have a diagnosed disability and require special accommodations, you can arrange for services through the Disabled Students' Program (<https://dsp.berkeley.edu/home>). You are also welcome to get in touch with me directly.
- (vii) **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 welcome and encouraged to discuss the homework problems with other students, but you must write up your solutions independently, in your own words. It is generally a good practice to indicate the names of students you worked with on your assignments. You may NOT discuss the exam problems with other students, but you are of course free to ask questions in class or by email. All exams are open book and open notes.

COURSE PLAN (subject to revision)

1. Introduction and course overview	08.27.2020
2. Varieties of implication, sense relations <i>Reading:</i> Murphy Ch.1, Ch.6	09.01.2020
3. Sense relations, polysemy <i>Reading:</i> Murphy Ch.5.2, Cruse 1995; Dölling (to appear)	09.03.2020–09.08.2020
4. Lexical encoding, types of lexical information <i>Reading:</i> Fillmore 1969, 1971; McCawley 1979	09.10.2020–09.15.2020 <i>Assignment 1 due</i>
5. Lexical information across categories, grammatical regularities <i>Reading:</i> Clark & Clark 1979; Kiparsky 1997	09.17.2020–09.22.2020
6. <i>Guest lecture:</i> Paul Kiparsky (Stanford), Semantic change	09.24.2020 <i>Assignment 2 due</i>
7. Nouns: sense/reference, kinds, the mass/count distinction <i>Reading:</i> Murphy Ch.8; Wierzbicka 1988;	09.29.2020–10.01.2020
8. Pragmatic enrichment, scalar inference <i>Reading:</i> Horn 1984	10.06.2020 <i>Assignment 3 due</i>
9. <i>Guest lecture:</i> Lelia Glass (Georgia Tech), Distributivity	10.08.2020
10. Adjectives: concepts, antonymy, vagueness <i>Reading:</i> Murphy Ch.11; Dixon 1982; Kennedy 2012	10.13.2020–10.15.2020 <i>Midterm due</i>

11. Lexical meaning and grammatical structure: thematic roles 10.20.2020–10.22.2020
Reading: Dowty 1979; Davis 2011; Levin & Rappaport Hovav 2005 (excerpts)
12. *Guest lecture:* Bonnie Krejci (Stanford), Weather verbs 10.27.2020
13. Argument structure and alternations 10.29.2020–11.03.2020
Reading: Fillmore 1970; Dowty 1991; Rappaport Hovav & Levin 2012 *Assignment 4 due*
14. Lexical and analytical causatives 11.05.2020
Reading: Wierzbicka 1998
15. Aspectual classes and temporal properties 11.10.2020–11.12.2020
Reading: Vendler 1957, Dowty 1977, Mittwoch 2019
16. Manner/result duality 11.17.2020–11.19.2020
Reading: Slobin 1996; Rappaport Hovav & Levin 2010 *Assignment 5 due*
17. *Guest lecture:* Masoud Jasbi (UC Davis), Lexical acquisition 11.24.2020
18. Presuppositions and inferential properties of words 12.01.2020–12.03.2020
(factives, implicatives, aspectual verbs) *Assignment 6 due*
Reading: Kiparsky & Kiparsky 1970; Karttunen 1971

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