UCLouvain

lfial1260

2026

Interpreting language: semantic and pragmatic approaches

5.00 credits	30.0 h	Q1

Teacher(s)	Degand Elisabeth ;
Language :	French
Place of the course	Louvain-la-Neuve
Prerequisites	Students have successfully completed an introductory course in linguistics
Main themes	This course reviews different approaches in semantics and pragmatics based on a critical analysis of language usage in authentic contexts. Among these currents and approaches, there are: · Lexical semantics · Sentence-level semantics · Cognitive approaches · Pragmatic theories of speech acts · Gricean and neo-Gricean pragmatics · Semantic and pragmatic principles at work at the discourse level and in language evolution.
Learning outcomes	**At the end of this learning unit, the student is able to :** 1 Develop knowledge of explanatory perspectives in semantics and pragmatics; 2 Apply theoretical concepts to concrete language situations,d'appliquer des concepts théoriques à des situations langagières concrètes; 3 Demonstrate a good knowledge of different contemporary approaches to semantics and pragmatics. This learning unit contributes to the development and command of the following skills and learning outcomes of the ELAL programmes: :1.4, 1.6, 2.6, 3.5, 3.6, 6.4, 6.6
Evaluation methods	Written exam combining multiple choice and open-ended questions (30% for the exercises section, 70% for the theory questions)
Teaching methods	This course includes lectures and requires active participation from students in the form of practical exercises (Moodle, Wooclap, in class). Revision exercises will also be provided.
Content	The course addresses the role of semantics and pragmatics at different levels of linguistic representation: lexical semantics, sentence semantics and relations between propositions (sentence meaning: reference, inference, propositional logic, truth values) and discursive semantics (coherence and cohesion). A general overview of cognitive semantics (metaphors, mental images, mental spaces) and certain pragmatic theories (speech act theory, relevance theory) is provided. All theoretical situations are illustrated with concrete examples from everyday life (advertisements, authentic conversational exchanges).
Bibliography	Zufferey, S., and J. Moeschler. 2024. *Initiation à l'étude Du Sens: Sémantique et Pragmatique* . 2nde ed. Editions Sciences Humaines.
Other infos	English-friendly course (cf. https://www.uclouvain.be/fr/facultes/fial/friendly-courses)
Faculty or entity in charge	ELAL

Programmes containing this learning unit (UE)

Program title	Acronym	Credits	Prerequisite	Learning outcomes
Bachelor in Modern Languages and Literatures: German, Dutch and English	GERM1BA	5		
Bachelor in Ancient and Modern Languages and Literatures	LAFR1BA	5		
Minor in Linguistics (only available for reenrolment)	MINLING	5		
Bachelor in French and Romance Languages and Literatures : General	ROM1BA	5		
Bachelor in Modern Languages and Literatures : General	ROGE1BA	5		
Minor in Linguistics	MINLINGUI	5		