



Course Specification

— (Bachelor)

Course Title: Semantics

Course Code: 701/731465-3

Program: English Language

Department: Department of English

College: College of Social Sciences

Institution: Umm Al-Qura University

Version: 3

Last Revision Date: 1445-2023



Table of Contents

A. General information about the course:	3
B. Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs), Teaching Strategies and Assessment Methods	4
C. Course Content	6
D. Students Assessment Activities	7
E. Learning Resources and Facilities	7
F. Assessment of Course Quality	8
G. Specification Approval	8



A. General information about the course:

1. Course Identification

1. Credit hours: 3

2. Course type

A. University College Department Track Others
B. Required Elective

3. Level/year at which this course is offered: Level 6

4. Course general Description:

This course encompasses modern approaches to meaning, with English as the main language of analysis. The term 'meaning' can be thought of in two ways: speaker meaning and sentence or word meaning. This course explicates both aspects of meaning and develops ways of explaining how people communicate. The student is introduced to the distinction between sentences, utterances, and propositions, and also between reference and sense. All of these concepts are then used extensively to discuss how words and sentences convey meaning and how meaning is constructed between interlocutors. Logical notions and notation are touched on with the purpose of showing a method for disambiguating sentences. Various means of indicating the meaning of words are given, including examples of regular desk-type dictionaries. Also included are different kinds of meaning notations that would be favoured by a semanticist, one such example being meaning postulates. There is also a section about Interpersonal Meaning, which is meaning as it is constructed in authentic linguistic situations, how meaning is negotiated between interlocutors, and how it can be different from what the basic word or sentence meaning might be.

5. Pre-requirements for this course (if any):

Introduction to Language (701/731260-3)

6. Co-requirements for this course (if any):

None

7. Course Main Objective(s):

To examine meaning from a variety of perspectives, including, but not limited to, how it is encoded in words and sentences.

2. Teaching mode (mark all that apply)

No	Mode of Instruction	Contact Hours	Percentage
1	Traditional classroom	3 hours per week	100%
2	E-learning		





No	Mode of Instruction	Contact Hours	Percentage
3	Hybrid <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Traditional classroom E-learning 		
4	Distance learning		

3. Contact Hours (based on the academic semester)

No	Activity	Contact Hours
1.	Lectures	34 hours
2.	Laboratory/Studio	
3.	Field	
4.	Tutorial	
5.	Others: Exams	2 hours
Total		36 hours

B. Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs), Teaching Strategies and Assessment Methods

Code	Course Learning Outcomes	Code of CLOs aligned with program	Teaching Strategies	Assessment Methods
1.0	Knowledge and understanding			
1.1	The student will express, either orally or in writing, basic concepts in semantics, such as sentence meaning vs speaker meaning, sentence, utterance, and proposition	K1	[1] Classroom lectures on the topics. [2] Drawing the students' attention to the pertinent information in the textbook. [3] Optionally requiring students to search for related information on the internet. [4] Optional worksheet practice on various topics, as needed	1. Formally: Mid-term exam or a number of partial exams, and the Final Exam 2. Informally: Through on-going teacher evaluation of the student in the classroom, their responses to oral questions, participation in discussion or spontaneous comments, and online activities.
1.2	The student will express, either orally or in writing, basic ideas about reference, such as predicates, referring expressions, predicate, universe of discourse, deixis, definiteness, extensions, prototypes, and stereotypes.	K1		
1.3	The student will express, either orally or in writing, basic ideas about	K1		





Code	Course Learning Outcomes	Code of CLOs aligned with program	Teaching Strategies	Assessment Methods
	sense, such as analytic, synthetic and contradictory sentences, synonymy, paraphrase, hyponymy, entailment, antonymy, binary antonyms, converses, gradable antonyms, multiple antonyms, polysemy, and ambiguity.			
1.4	The student will express, either orally or in writing, what logical formulae represent and the reasons for them, and compositionality of meaning.	K1		
1.5	The student will express, either orally or in writing, how words have meaning and how it is expressed, such as meaning postulates, derivation and inflection, symmetricity, reflexivity, transitivity, and the participant roles: agent, affected, instrument, location, beneficiary, experiencer, and theme.	K1		
1.6	The student will express, either orally or in writing, how interpersonal meaning is achieved, including speech act theory, perlocution, illocution, locution, phonic act, propositional act, felicity conditions, conversational implicature, and metaphoric language.	K1		
2.0	Skills			
2.1	The student will demonstrate, either orally or in writing, critical and analytical ability in the description of sentences in English, using various semantic concepts	S1	[1] Classroom lectures on the topics. [2] Drawing the students' attention to the pertinent information in the textbook.	1. Formally: Mid-term exam or a number of partial exams, and the Final Exam 2, Informally: Through ongoing teacher evaluation of the students in the classroom, their responses to
2.2	The student will write logical formulae, representing various types of English	S1	[3] Optionally requiring students to search for related	





Code	Course Learning Outcomes	Code of CLOs aligned with program	Teaching Strategies	Assessment Methods
	sentences., including simple propositions, and complex propositions using the logical operators and, or, if-then, and not.		information on the internet. [4] Optional worksheet practice on various topics, as needed	oral questions, participation in discussion or spontaneous comments, and online activities.
3.0	Values, autonomy, and responsibility			
3.1	The student will independently practice and answer some online activities.	V1	Class Discussion	Class discussion Descriptive Essay
3.2	The student will individually submit extra curriculum activities.	V1	Class Discussion	Class discussion Descriptive Essay
3.3	The student will demonstrate commitment to academic and ethical values.	V2	Class Discussion	Class discussion Descriptive Essay
3.4	The student must understand the meaning and consequences of absences, late submission of activities, cheating, plagiarism, and other academic offenses, as stated in the By-Law of the university.	V2	Class Discussion	Class discussion Descriptive Essay

C. Course Content

No	List of Topics	Contact Hours
1.	About semantics Sentences, utterances, and propositions	3
2.	Reference and sense Referring expressions Predicates	3
3.	Predicates, referring expressions, and universe of discourse Deixis and definiteness	3
4.	Words and things: extensions and prototypes Sense properties and stereotypes	3
5.	Sense relations	3
6.	About logic A notation for simple propositions	3
7.	Connectives	3
8.	About dictionaries Meaning postulates	3





9.	Derivation Participant roles Speech acts	3
10.	Perlocutions and illocutions Felicity conditions Direct and indirect illocutions	3
11.	Propositions and illocutions Conversational implicature Non-literal meaning: idioms, metaphor, and metonymy	3
Total		33

D. Students Assessment Activities

No	Assessment Activities *	Assessment timing (in week no)	Percentage of Total Assessment Score
1.	Midterm Exam	7	20%
2.	Quiz	10	15%
3.	Online Activities	3 & 8	10%
4.	Descriptive Essay	11	5%
5.	Final Exam	Final Exam Period	50%

*Assessment Activities (i.e., Written test, oral test, oral presentation, group project, essay, etc.).

E. Learning Resources and Facilities

1. References and Learning Resources

Essential References	Hurford, James R., Brendan Heasley, and Michael B. Smith. 2007. Semantics: A coursebook. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
Supportive References	Saeed, John. (2016). Semantics (4th ed.). Wiley Blackwell.
Electronic Materials	Website: https://allthingslinguistic.com
Other Learning Materials	

2. Required Facilities and equipment

Items	Resources
facilities (Classrooms, laboratories, exhibition rooms, simulation rooms, etc.)	Lecture room, approximately 35-40 students/group, with adequate whiteboards or Smartboards



Items	Resources
Technology equipment (projector, smart board, software)	(1) Blackboard (2) Projector (data show) (3) Computers in the rooms equipped with Smartboards
Other equipment (depending on the nature of the specialty)	

F. Assessment of Course Quality

Assessment Areas/Issues	Assessor	Assessment Methods
Effectiveness of teaching	Students	Survey (Indirect)
Effectiveness of Students assessment	Peer Reviewer	Sample of exam papers and Peer review form (Indirect)
Quality of learning resources	Students	Survey (Indirect)
The extent to which CLOs have been achieved	Course Instructor	Exams and assignments (Direct)
Other		

Assessors (Students, Faculty, Program Leaders, Peer Reviewers, Others (specify))

Assessment Methods (Direct, Indirect)

G. Specification Approval

COUNCIL /COMMITTEE	DEPARTMENT COUNCIL
REFERENCE NO.	424040414453/ 132022
DATE	07 RABI- II 1445- 22 OCTOBER 2023

