LING 215: SEMANTICS II
Syllabus
WiSe 2019 - 2020

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The semantic foundations acquired in Ling 115 are further developed. The compositional procedure is extended to derive the meaning of more complex constructions. New tools are introduced and applied to specific phenomena.

INSTRUCTOR: Prof. Maribel Romero (short for María Isabel Romero Sangüesa)
maribel.romero@uni-konstanz.de
G222
Office hours: Mondays 17-18h

PREREQUISITES: Ling115 or equivalent semantic knowledge.

MEETINGS: Lecture: Mondays 15:15h-16:45h, G307
Übung/Practice (very much encouraged!): Th 14:15-15h, G209

READINGS

Main textbooks: Heim, I., and A. Kratzer. 1998. *Semantics in Generative Grammar*. Blackwell.

Other readings: Lappin, S. 1996. The Handbook of Contemporary Semantic Theory. Oxford: Blackwell.

Lohstein, H. 2011. *Formale Semantik und natürliche Sprache*. De Gruyter.

Partee, B., ter Meulen, A., and Wall. 1990. *Mathematical Methods in Linguistics*. Dordrecht: Kluwer.

Portner, Paul and Barbara Partee, eds. 2002. *Formal Semantics: The Essential Readings*. Oxford: Blackwell.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADE

Weekly exercises for practice	0%
Two Take-Home exams (together)	40%
Final exam (Klausur), to be passed independently of the Take-Homes	60%

IMPORTANT: You need to pass the final exam / Klausur by itself –i.e., independently of the take-homes– to pass the course.

OUTLINE OF THE COURSE

I. Formal tools

- Introduction.
- Predicate Logic.   REVIEW AND ELABORATION
- λ-calculus.   REVIEW AND ELABORATION
- The semantic module so far: lexical entries, semantic rules, sample derivations. REVIEW

II. Modification

- Types of adjectives.
- Complex modifiers: Relatives Clauses and λ-abstraction.
- Definite description: the ι-operator.

III. Sentences with quantifiers

- Quantifiers as relations between sets. Function-denotations.
- Mathematical properties of Natural Language quantifiers.
- Scope and scopal ambiguities.
- Quantifier Raising: landing sites, sloppy and strict readings.

IV. Other phenomena

- Quantifiers, learnability and neural networks.
- Plurals.
- Comparative and superlative constructions.
- Events.
- Focus.
- Etc.