

**Ling 316:**  
**Focus and Related Issues in Pragmatics**  
**SoSe 2011**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This MA/LA seminar investigates the pragmatic properties of several constructions involving focal stress, including question-answer congruence in discourse and association with focus. Central to the seminar will be questions about in-situ *vs.* movement approaches to focus, the role of the Focus Phrase, direct *vs.* indirect association with focus, the phonology/pragmatics interface of focus, and implicatures (exhaustivity) and other effects (intervention) due to focus. Furthermore, the course will study the pragmatic properties of a related construction: contrastive topic. Finally, other relevant issues at the pragmatics/semantics interface will be presented (invited presentations).

**INSTRUCTOR:** Prof. Maribel Romero (short for María Isabel Romero Sangüesa)  
[maribel.romero@uni-konstanz.de](mailto:maribel.romero@uni-konstanz.de)  
G212  
Office hours: Thursdays 12-13h

**COURSE PREREQUISITES**

Background on pragmatics at least equivalent to Ling116.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

- Class presentation of a relevant paper (Referat)
- Term paper (Hausarbeit) due shortly after the end of classes.

## SCHEDULE

<b>FOCUS</b>	
April 14	<p><b>Introduction to Focus</b>            Rooth, M. 1996. Focus. In S. Lappin (ed.), <i>Handbook of contemporary semantic theory</i>. Blackwell. [Up to page 277.]</p>
April 21	No class (holiday)
April 28	<p><b>The notion of scope I: in-situ, movement and hybrid approaches</b>            Rooth, M. 1996. Focus. In S. Lappin (ed.), <i>Handbook of contemporary semantic theory</i>. Blackwell. [Rest of the paper]            Krifka, M. 2006. Association with focus phrases. In Valerie Molnar and Susanne Winkler, <i>The Architecture of Focus</i>, Berlin, New York: Mouton de Gruyter, 2006, 105-136.</p>
May 5	<p><b>The notion of scope II: the role of the Focus Phrase</b>            Wagner, M. 2006. Association by Movement. Evidence from NPI-Licensing, <i>Natural Language Semantics</i> 14. 297–324.            Arndt Riestler and Hans Kamp. 2010. Squiggly issues: Alternative sets, complex DPs and intensionality. In M. Aloni et al. (eds.) <i>Logic, Language and Meaning. Revised Selected Papers from the 17th Amsterdam Colloquium</i>. Berlin: Springer. pp.374-383.</p>
May 12	<p><b>Talk by BRIAN LEAHY</b> (U. Konstanz, SALT/Poland talk) on antipresuppositions in counterfactuals.            Background reading TBA.</p>
May 19	<p>EITHER  <b>❶ Intervention effects and Focus</b>            Tomioka, S. 2007. Pragmatics of LF intervention effects: Japanese and Korean Wh-interrogatives, <i>Journal of Pragmatics</i> 39: 1570-1590.            OR  <b>❷ Direct vs. indirect association with focus</b>            Beaver, D. and B. Clark. 2008. <i>Sense and sensitivity. How focus determines meaning</i>. Blackwell. [Selected chapters]</p>
May 26	<p><b>Focus and intonation</b>            Reading to be determined in coordination with Ling342 (Experimental Phonology) and/or Ling311 (Prosody).</p>
June 2	No class (holiday)

<b>CONTRASTIVE TOPIC</b>	
June 9	<p><b>Contrastive Topic</b>  Büring, D. 2003. On D-Trees, Beans, and B-Accents. <i>Linguistics &amp; Philosophy</i> 26:511-545.  Kadmon, N. 2009. Contrastive topics and the focal structure of questions, unpublished ms, available in <a href="http://semanticarchive.net">semanticarchive.net</a>.  Kamali and Büring. 2011. Topics in questions, GLOW 2011 talk (April 28-30, 2011).  Roberts, C. 1996. Information structure in discourse, <i>OSU Working papers</i>.  van Rooj, R. 2008. Topic, Focus, and Exhaustive Interpretation. In Chungmin (ed.), <i>Proceedings of CIL 18 workshop</i>.</p>
June 16	<p><b>Talk by SATOSHI TOMIOKA</b> (U. Delaware) on contrast and Gricean reasoning.  Background reading TBA.</p>
June 23	No class (holiday)

June 30	<p><b>Talk by CLEO CONDORAVDI</b> (Stanford/PARC/Zukunftskolleg in U. Konstanz) on one of these three topics (see longer description below):  ① Computing the implications of complements of implicative and presuppositional predicates: Nairn et al. (2006).  ② Temporal interpretation of modals: updated version of Condoravdi (2002).  ③ Performatives and imperatives: Condoravdi and Lauer (2011).  Background reading TBA.</p>
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July 7 or make-up day	Student presentations
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July 14	To be decided.
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