

## Syllabus

**Semantics** is the study of **meaning**; **lexical semantics** is the study of the meaning of **words**. This is different from formal topics like propositional and predicate calculus, which deal mostly with the meaning of sentences, or pragmatics, which deals mostly with the meaning of utterances. The object of this course is to understand **metaphor**, but since metaphor is exemplified in words, we must first understand words. Thus the course is concerned largely with the word-level, but we will deal occasionally with logic and pragmatics, since language, like the human mind, is a living thing, and therefore is not divided neatly into functional subroutines like a well-designed computer program.

We will begin by making sure that we are all on the same page, epistemologically speaking, by going over some basic scientific presuppositions, as discussed by Bateson, and then proceed to an elementary statement of the cognitive metaphor theory of Lakoff and Johnson. These are both contained in Part 1 of the coursepack (see table of contents on reverse). See also <http://www.umich.edu/~jlawler/wordmetlinks.html>, a list of Web links to information on topics that we'll be discussing in class.

At this stage, with our target on the horizon, we study some basic concepts of word semantics, the ontological and epistemological categories they express in human languages, and the relevance of these to metaphor, as well as to grammar, pragmatics, and logic, in the first textbook (Levin, *English Verb Classes and Alternations*, at Shaman Drum) and in Part 2 of the coursepack. To solidify our knowledge, we will write a **paper** (of 5-10 pages) presenting an elementary analysis of some natural class of English words, due **October 21<sup>st</sup>** (after Study Days).

Finally, we spend the rest of the term investigating metaphor and its cognitive and cultural extensions (fields, schemata, images, symbolism, iconicity, phonosemantics, ideas, memes, conventions, rituals, myths) and other issues in lexical semantics, like sound symbolism, in the second textbook (Kövecses, *Metaphor*) and in Part 3 of the coursepack; and compose the first draft of a **term project**, due in draft form on **November 18<sup>th</sup>**; the final, revised, improved, and polished version of the project is due on **December 14<sup>th</sup>**, the last day of class. Extensions cannot be granted for this deadline.

The project may be a traditional library term paper (10-20 pages), examining some topic we have touched upon, or a data analysis paper, or an electronic project of equivalent size and complexity, e.g, a computer program (debugged, with documentation, suitable for **immediate** public release) or a Web site (suitable for **permanent** installation on the World Wide Web). Projects may be individual or group, though group projects have higher quality standards than individual ones; you should discuss any proposed group work with me in advance.

## Part 1

- 1) Introduction, Chapters I-IV, Appendix A ('Time is Out of Joint'), and Glossary from: *Mind and Nature: A Necessary Unity*, by Gregory Bateson (1979).
- 2) Chapters 1—10 from *Metaphors We Live By*, by George Lakoff and Mark Johnson, University of Chicago Press 1980.
- 3) Review of Lakoff and Johnson (1980), by John Lawler. *Language* 59:1, 1983.

## Part 2

- 1) Chapters 3, 4, and 10 ('Entities', 'Events', and 'Attributes', respectively), from *Linguistic Semantics*, by William Frawley, Erlbaum 1992.
- 2) "The Grammar of *Hitting* and *Breaking*", by Charles J. Fillmore, from *Readings in English Transformational Grammar*, Jacobs and Rosenbaum (eds), Ginn 1970.
- 3) *Santa Cruz Lectures on Deixis 1971*, by Charles J. Fillmore.
- 4) "Topics in Lexical Semantics", by Charles J. Fillmore, from *Current Issues in Linguistic Theory*, R. Cole (ed), Indiana University Press 1977.
- 5) Chapters 2, 6, and 16 from *Women, Fire, and Dangerous Things*, by George Lakoff, University of Chicago Press 1987.

## Part 3

- 1) "A note on a Walbiri tradition of antonymy" by Ken Hale, from *Semantics*, Steinberg & Jakobovits (eds), Cambridge University Press, 1971.
- 2) "A method of semantic description", by R. M. W. Dixon, *ibidem*.
- 3) "Semantic Typology and Spatial Conceptualization" by Pederson, Danziger, Wilkins, Levinson, Kita, & Senft. *Language* 74:3, 1998.
- 4) "The Conduit Metaphor", by Michael J. Reddy, from *Metaphor and Thought*, A. Ortony (ed), Cambridge University Press, 1979.
- 5) "*TIME IS MONEY: The Anatomy of a Metaphor*", by John Lawler. 1988.
- 6) "World Order", by William Cooper & Háj Ross, from *Functionalism* (Paravolume to CLS 11), Chicago Linguistic Society, 1975.
- 7) "Athematic Metaphors", by Richard Rhodes & John Lawler. *Papers from the Seventeenth Regional Meeting*, Chicago Linguistic Society (CLS 17), 1981.
- 8) "Women, Men, and Bristly Things: The Phonosemantics of the BR- Assonance in English", by John Lawler. *Michigan Working Papers in Linguistics* I:1, Beddor (ed), 1990.
- 9) "Style Stands Still", by John Lawler. *Style* 37:2, 2003.
- 10) "The Data Fetishist's Guide to Rime Coherence", from *Poetry and Candy Colored Syntax: Language Presented to Háj Ross*, Kalpakidis and Salmon (eds).
- 11) "The Psychological Reality of the Phonaestheme", by Benjamin Bergen. *Language* 80:2, 2004.