

- Faculté des lettres et sciences humaines
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Seminar 1: Pragmatics (2AN1131)

Filières concernées	Nombre d'heures	Validation	Crédits ECTS
Pilier principal B A - langue et littérature anglaises	Séminaire: 2 ph	Voir ci-dessous	5
Pilier principal M A - sciences du langage et de la communication	Séminaire: 2 ph	Voir ci-dessous	5
Pilier secondaire M A - sciences du langage et de la communication	Séminaire: 2 ph	Voir ci-dessous	5

ph=période hebdomadaire, pg=période globale, j=jour, dj=demi-jour, h=heure, min=minute

Période d'enseignement:

- Semestre Automne

Equipe enseignante

Samuel Bourgeois

Contenu

This course provides students with an introduction to the major areas of study of Pragmatics. Pragmatics is the systematic study of how people understand and communicate beyond the literal meaning of words and sentences used in communication. Therefore, Pragmatics is interested in the context of communication and how this works in different types of social interaction.

For example, Pragmatics allows us to answer the following questions:

- Why do sentences such as, "It's dark in here" sometimes mean different things such as "Turn on the lights" or "It's creepy in here"?
- Why is it offensive to use swear words in some situations, while in other cases it is a sign of being close?
- How do we manage to understand each other when we often do not explicitly say what we mean?

In this seminar, we will address these and many other questions. We will read and discuss a selection of influential studies in this field concerning topics such as speech act theory, deictics, (im)politeness and pragmatic markers, just to name a few. In the second part of this seminar, students will get hands-on experience by applying some of these tools and methods to their own small-scale research projects using corpus or self-collected data.

Forme de l'évaluation

Regular participation is required (10%). The rest of the semester grade comes from two assignments. The first assignment (30%) is a group project based on a pragmatics topic of their choosing. Each group will present the results of their project during the final weeks of term. The final 60% comes from an individual term paper (approx. 10 pages), which will be an expansion of the group project. A minimum of 4.0 is required to pass this course.

If a final grade of a 4.0 is not reached, it will lead to a rattrapage of an additional and longer (approx. 20 page) paper on a new subject. The subject of the rattrapage paper must be approved by the instructor.

Documentation

All necessary readings will be distributed electronically via Moodle

Pré-requis

Students must have taken an introductory linguistics class. As this course is given in English, a minimum of a B2 level is required.

Forme de l'enseignement

Séminaire This seminar will require active student participation during discussions and student presentations.

Objectifs d'apprentissage

Au terme de la formation l'étudiant-e doit être capable de :

- Extract the most important information from published research articles
- Synthesise research findings

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- Describe and discuss different linguistic theories of linguistic pragmatics
- Interpret empirical data
- Differentiate and evaluate different theoretical frameworks within the field of pragmatics
- Carry out independent research

Compétences transférables

- Generate new ideas
- Apply knowledge to new situations
- Design and manage independent projects
- Communicate in a second language