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Meaning and cognition (2LN2318)

Filières concernées	Nombre d'heures	Validation	Crédits ECTS
Master en sciences cognitives	**Séminaire: 2 ph**	**Voir ci-dessous**	6

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

Période d'enseignement:

- Semestre Printemps

Equipe enseignante

Dr. Anna Piata

Contenu

This MA seminar aims to approach the interplay between linguistic meaning and cognition with a particular focus on metaphor and figurative language at large. Traditionally, metaphor has been viewed as a figure of speech restricted mainly to rhetoric and literature, namely a deviation from ordinary speech. Recent advancements in linguistic pragmatics, however, have shown that metaphor belongs to the everyday repertoire of speakers and that its understanding requires no special inferential processes. At the same time, research in cognitive linguistics has suggested a view of metaphor as a conceptual mechanism that enables speaking about, and understanding, abstract concepts. Taken together, and despite their different scope, such findings have enabled a shift in our understanding of metaphor with significant implications for linguistics and cognitive science.

In this light, this seminar considers metaphor as a window into the intricacies of meaning and cognition. For this purpose we will explore metaphor through an interdisciplinary scope, drawing on insights from pragmatics, psycholinguistics, cognitive linguistics, stylistics, and critical discourse analysis. Although diverse and often diverging, such approaches aspire to account for the complex and multifaceted nature of metaphor. The goal of this seminar is to chart the territory of contemporary metaphor research, identify the merits, as well as the limitations, of each approach, and engage students in a comprehensive understanding of metaphor research while considering the broader picture of meaning and cognition.

Upon successful completion of the course, students are expected to acquire a novel understanding of metaphor; familiarize themselves with, and critically assess, various theoretical and methodological approaches to metaphor; and, finally, explore the applicability of metaphor research in various discourse domains (such as literature, politics, etc.) and also across modalities.

Forme de l'évaluation

The course is assessed on the basis of an in-class presentation of a paper on a topic related to metaphor. The presentation needs to effectively communicate, and critically discuss, the main ideas of the paper in order to assess its empirical validity and theoretical contribution. Students should consult with the instructor in order to choose an appropriate paper. The students will be asked to also submit a written report on the topic of the presentation. Finally, students who would like to pursue a research project on metaphor are encouraged to contact the instructor individually.

Modalités de rattrapage

Oral presentation at the end of SS 2023

Documentation

Please consult Moodle in SS 2023.

Pré-requis

None

Forme de l'enseignement

The seminar is offered in the form of on-site lectures, in which students are expected to actively participate through in-group discussions, formative assignments, and student presentations. All course materials, including lecture slides, readings, and assignments, will be shared through Moodle. The aim is to create an inclusive and stimulating learning environment, a community of learners. Finally, it also our intention to

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host guest lecturers who will lecture on specific topics related to metaphor, meaning and cognition.

Objectifs d'apprentissage

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

- Associate
- Analyse
- Criticise
- Interpret
- Synthesise
- Compare
- Explain
- Evaluate
- Present
- Transfer

Compétences transférables

- Explain
- Discuss
- Combine
- Transfer
- Analyse
- Present
- Synthesise
- Communicate