Course Specifications

Course Title:	Semantics and Pragmatics
Course Code:	ENG 373
Program:	Bachelor Program in English
Department:	Department of English Language and Literature
College:	College of Languages and Translation
Institution:	Imam Muhammad Ibn Saud Islamic University

Table of Contents

A. Course Identification

1. Credit hours:	3 Hours				
2. Course type					
a.	University ☐	College ☐	Department ■		Others ☐
b.		Required ■		Elective ☐	
3. Level/year at which this course is offered:		**Level 6 / Third Year**			
4. Pre-requisites for this course (if any)**:**		**ENG 260**			
5. Co-requisites for this course (if any)**:**					
None					

6. Mode of Instruction (mark all that apply)

No	Mode of Instruction	Contact Hours	Percentage
1	**Traditional classroom**	36	75%
2	**Blended**	12	25%
3	**E-learning**		
4	**Distance learning**		
5	**Other**		

7. Contact Hours (based on academic semester)

No	Activity	Contact Hours
1	**Lecture**	36
2	**Laboratory/Studio**	12
3	**Tutorial**	12
4	**Others** ((Practical work, Tests))	36
	Total	96

B. Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes

1. Course Description

This three-hour credit course introduces undergraduate students to the science of linguistic meaning. There are two branches to this field: semantics which deals with meanings on both word and sentence level (i.e., compositional meaning) and pragmatics that deals with how meanings are communicated (i.e., interactional meaning). The course explains how languages organize and express meaning through words, parts of words, sentences and discourse. It introduces the element of meaning as a main aspect of linguistic theory across all levels of language. It is meant for advanced undergraduate students in linguistics who are competent to identify relations between sentences, the effect of context on meaning along with concepts of meaning in linguistic theory. Topics include: differences between sentences, utterances and propositions, the relationship between reference and sense, referring expressions, predicates, deixis, definiteness and context, extensions and prototypes, stereotypes, sense relations between individual predicates and sentences, speech acts and conversational implicatures.

2. Course Main Objective

The main objective of the course is to enable students to examine meaning from a variety of perspectives. This includes how meaning is encoded in words and sentences, how native speakers interpret language, and how truth and falsehood can emerge from the complexity of meaning. Accordingly, by the end of this course, students should be able to:

1. Identify basic ideas about semantics.
2. Explain clearly the differences between Sentences, Utterances, and Propositions.
3. Discuss the relationship between Reference and Sense.
4. Discuss Referring Expressions.
5. Explain the relationship between Predicator and Predicate.
6. Discuss Predicates, Referring Expressions and Universe of Discourse.
7. Explain Extensions and Prototypes.
8. Explain Sense Properties and Stereotypes.
9. Discuss sense relations between individual predicates.
10. Identify sense relations between individual predicates and sentences.
11. Discuss speech act theory.
12. Identify Cooperative Principle Maxims and interpret Conversational implicature types correctly.

3. Course Learning Outcomes

	CLOs	Aligned PLOs
1	**Knowledge and Understanding**	
1.1	Reproduce knowledge and skills related to basic ideas in semantics.	**K1**
1.2	List semantic terms, concepts, and basic units of meaning.	**K2**
1.3	Define basic semantic and pragmatic concepts such as reference and sense, predicator and predicate, deixis, sense relations, properties and stereotypes, implicature and speech acts.	**K3**
1.4	Exemplify the ways in which meanings are shaped by contextual and cultural factors.	**K4**
2	**Skills:**	
2.1	Interpret what constitutes the domains of semantics and pragmatics to distinguish between linguistic meaning and meaning in context.	**S1**
2.2	Analyze language material with regard to semantic and pragmatic issues.	**S2**
2.3	Use the acquired knowledge of semantic concepts to solve problems concerning meanings in language and their applicability in human interaction.	**S4**
2.4	Formulate generalizations, ideas or conclusions over relevant semantic datasets.	**S5, S6**
2.5	Apply appropriate semantic and pragmatic research methodologies to interpret findings.	**S6**
3	**Values:**	
3.1	Demonstrate self-learning attributes through effective questioning, communicating and writing with regard to semantics and pragmatics.	**V1**
3.2	Work effectively and collaboratively in group activities.	**V2**
3.3	Show a commitment to abide by ethical behavior in research and academic work related to semantics and pragmatics.	**V3**

C. Course Content

No	List of Topics	Contact Hours
	Note: Practical Work is within the course's topics contact hours	
1	Course Orientation: course and syllabus discussion	3
	Semantics	
2	Basic Ideas in Semantics	3
3	Sentences, Utterances, and Propositions	3
4	Reference and Sense	3
5	Referring Expressions	3
6	Predicator and Predicate	3
7	Predicates, Referring Expressions, and Universe of Discourse	3
8	Deixis, Definiteness, and Context	3
9	Extensions and Prototypes	3
10	Sense Properties and Stereotypes	3
11	Sense Relations 1	3
12	Sense Relations 2	3
	Pragmatics	
13	Definitions and Background	3
14	Cooperation and Implicature	3
15	Speech Acts and Events	3
16	Revision	3
	Total	48

D. Teaching and Assessment

1. Alignment of Course Learning Outcomes with Teaching Strategies and Assessment Methods

Code	Course Learning Outcomes	Teaching Strategies	Assessment Methods
1.0	**Knowledge and Understanding**		
1.1	Reproduce knowledge and skills related to basic ideas in semantics.	Lectures Class discussion In-class exercises Case analysis Handouts	Quizzes Assignments Class Participation Mind maps Case study Midterm/Final Exams
1.2	List semantic terms, concepts, and basic units of meaning.		
1.3	Define basic semantic and pragmatic concepts such as reference and sense, predicator and predicate, deixis, sense relations, properties and stereotypes, implicature and speech acts.		
1.4	Exemplify the ways in which meanings are shaped by contextual and cultural factors.		
2.0	**Skills**		
2.1	Interpret what constitutes the domains of semantics and pragmatics to distinguish between linguistic meaning and meaning in context.	Lectures Class discussion Case analysis In-class exercises Tutorials	Assignments In-class activities Term Paper Case study Portfolio Midterm/Final
2.2	Analyze language material with regard to semantic and pragmatic issues.		
2.3	Use the acquired knowledge of semantic concepts to solve problems concerning meanings in language and their applicability in human interaction.		

Code	Course Learning Outcomes	Teaching Strategies	Assessment Methods
2.4	Formulate generalizations, ideas or conclusions over relevant semantic datasets.		Exams
2.5	Apply appropriate semantic and pragmatic research methodologies to interpret findings.		
3.0	**Values**		
3.1	Demonstrate self-learning attributes through effective questioning, communicating and writing with regard to semantics and pragmatics.	Pair /Group work Class discussion Research sessions lectures	In-class activities Reflective writing Rubric Term Paper Portfolio
3.2	Work effectively and collaboratively in group activities.		
3.3	Show a commitment to abide by ethical behavior in research and academic work related to semantics and pragmatics.		

2. Assessment Tasks for Students

#	Assessment task*	Week Due	Percentage of Total Assessment Score
1	Midterms- Choice to allocate either: **One Midterm**	7 or 8	30%
	Two Midterms	6 or 7 - 11 - 12	15% + 15%
2	Course Work as assigned by the convener/instructor (see **D1** Assessment methods).	Throughout the semester	30%
3	Final Exam	16 &17	40%
		Total	**100%**

*Assessment task (i.e., written test, oral test, oral presentation, group project, essay, etc.)

E. Student Academic Counseling and Support

Arrangements for availability of faculty and teaching staff for individual student consultations and academic advice:

- Instructors are available during their assigned office hours usually from two to four hours depending on their teaching loads.
- Instructors devote approximately ten minutes at the end of each lecture for receiving students' questions in relation to the latest lecture as well as the student's revision and self-study problems.
- Instructors are assigned one hour for student academic advising.
- Faculty emails are accessible for students.
- Online interaction between instructor and student is available using the university's official online platforms (e.g., Microsoft Teams, Blackboard Learn, Microsoft Kaizala).

F. Learning Resources and Facilities
1.Learning Resources

Required Textbooks	1. Hurford, J., Heasley, B., Smith, M. (2007). Semantics: a coursebook. Second edition. Cambridge University Press. 2. Yule, G. (1996). *Pragmatics*. Oxford University Press.
Essential References Materials	1. Alkhuli, M. (2002). *An Introduction to Semantics*. Dar Al Falah, Amman. 2. Howard Gregory. Semantics Routledge Language Workbooks, 2000. 3. Löbner, S. (2013). *Understanding semantics*. Routledge.

	4. Lyons, J. (1987). *Semantics.* Cambridge University Press.
	5. Saeed, J. *Semantics.* (2nd Edition). Oxford: Oxford University Press.
	6. Yan Huang. Pragmatics. Oxford University Press, 2014
	7. Ishihara, N., & Cohen, A. D. (2010). *Teaching and learning pragmatics: Where language and culture meet*. Routledge.
	8. Senft, G. (2014). *Understanding pragmatics*. Routledge.
Electronic Materials	1. *Journal of Semantics – Oxford Journals.* http://www.oxfordjournals.org/our_journals/semant/about.html 2. *Journal of Literary Semantics.* 3. http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal 4. Saudi Digital Library https://sdl.edu.sa/sdlportal/en/publishers.aspx 5. Semantics and Pragmatics, A Journal of the Linguistic Society of America http://semprag.org/article/view/sp.9.1/pdf
Other Learning Materials	

2. Facilities Required

Item	Resources
Accommodation (Classrooms, laboratories, demonstration rooms/labs, etc.)	Classrooms Main Library King Abdullah City Campus Library
Technology Resources (AV, data show, Smart Board, software, etc.)	The university's official cloud server cloud.imamu.edu.sa gives access to faculty and students to multiple **Microsoft Office 365** applications such as OneDrive, Teams, SharePoint, Kaizala …etc. • Blackboard • Cisco Webex • AV • Data show • E-podium • overhead projector • electronic whiteboard • Internet Access
Other Resources (Specify, e.g. if specific laboratory equipment is required, list requirements or attach a list)	None

G. Course Quality Evaluation

Evaluation Areas/Issues	Evaluators	Evaluation Methods

Evaluation Areas/Issues	Evaluators	Evaluation Methods
Effectiveness of teaching and assessment	Students	Direct
Teaching by the instructor or by the department	Peer Reviewer	Direct
Extent of achievement of course learning outcomes	Conveners / Coordinators	Direct / Indirect
Quality of learning resources	Faculty / Students	Direct / Indirect
Improvement of teaching	Program Leaders	Direct / Indirect
Standards of student achievement	Faculty	Direct

Evaluation areas (e.g., Effectiveness of teaching and assessment, Extent of achievement of course learning outcomes, Quality of learning resources, etc.)
Evaluators (Students, Faculty, Program Leaders, Peer Reviewer, Others (specify)
Assessment Methods (Direct, Indirect)

H. Specification Approval Data

Council / Committee	
Reference No.	
Date	