

Linguistics 350: Language and Context

Spring 2006, Rutgers University <http://dthatgirl.com/ling350/>
Monday and Thursday, 9:50-11:10 am, Murray Hall room 112
Instructor: Susan Schweitzer <sschweitzer@gc.cuny.edu>
Office hours: Monday 11:15-12:15 or by appt. (location TBA)

Introduction

This course covers the subfield of linguistics known as *pragmatics*. Through readings, class discussion, lectures, and assignments you will gain a good understanding of this area and how it relates to other areas in linguistics. Although LING 201 is the only formal prerequisite, LING 325, (semantics) is strongly recommended.

Readings

You are expected to obtain a copy of the primary text for the course, [Understanding Utterances: An Introduction to Pragmatics](#) by Diane Blakemore (ISBN:0-631-15867-7). Additional readings will be assigned and will be made available through the course website.

Expectations

readings and attendance

You will be expected to attend class regularly and keep up with the assigned readings. During most classes, I will ask questions of randomly selected students based on the readings for that day. I will not necessarily be taking attendance, but this is not a large class and I expect you to notify me via email in advance (i.e. not 20 min before class begins) if you have some need to be absent. If you simply fail to show up and you have been randomly selected that day to answer a question, your participation grade will suffer.

work

Four problem sets will be assigned during the semester. An in-class midterm will be given just before spring recess, and a final paper/presentation will be assigned later in the term. I will not accept late work. You will be given ample time to complete the assignments, and even if you are unable to make it to class I will always accept work submitted via email.

conduct

I expect you to turn off your mobile phone before you enter the classroom. If your phone rings during class, I will deduct points from your final grade. I expect you to follow the Rutgers guidelines on academic integrity. If you are not familiar with these, they are available online at: <http://teachx.rutgers.edu/integrity/policy.html> They cover plagiarism, cheating, and other forms of academic dishonesty. Please be aware of these guidelines as you will be expected to conform to university standards.

website and participation

I expect you to regularly check your email as well as the course website (if you use an RSS reader, you can subscribe to the course website at <http://www.dthatgirl.com/ling350/?feed=rss2>) Besides the most up-to-date version of the syllabus, the website will have electronic versions of everything I hand out in class, as well as important announcements, links to additional readings, and other resources. I expect everyone to register as a user on the course website and to make comments and/or ask questions. Your participation grade will be based on some combination of attendance as well as the quality of your contributions to class discussion (what takes place during the class sessions as well as conversations that take place on the course website). Although some readings are suggested and not required, it will be difficult, if not impossible, to get a perfect participation grade without reading some of the suggested readings. Also, the quality of your homework and final paper can only improve the more you do the suggested reading.

Grading

Your final grade will be based on 200 points. 15 points each homework (for a total of 60), 50 points for the midterm, 60 points for the final paper, 10 points for the final presentation, and 20 points for participation. (Again, note that I do not want phones ringing during class and will deduct points if this happens).

Tentative schedule

February 6: Problem Set 1 due

February 20: Problem Set 2 due

March 9: MIDTERM; final paper topic due

April 3: Problem Set 3 due

April 17: Problem Set 4 due

April 27, May 1: Student presentations of final project

May 1: Final paper due