Syllabus
Fall 2010

1 Class Coordinates

Instructor:	Florian Schwarz
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Office hours:	by appointment (which means just about any time! see my schedule at http://florianschwarz.net/schedule)

2 Course Description

This course provides an introduction to formal semantics for natural language. The central issue is how the meaning of a sentence can be derived from the meanings of its parts. We will discuss various of the aspects central to meaning composition, including function application, modification, quantification, and binding. We will also introduce some basic formal tools that are useful for semantic analysis, including set theory, propositional logic, and predicate logic. Throughout, the focus is on hands-on work so that you learn how to DO semantic analysis. The aim is for you to be able to develop formal semantic analyses of natural language phenomena and to be able to read and understand the current research literature.

3 Website on Blackboard

I will use Blackboard (https://courseweb.library.upenn.edu/) to post class documents etc., and may also use the blog function and other services provided there as needed. Please let me know if you're having trouble with Blackboard or if you would like me to use any other functions available there.

4 Requirements

- attend class & do assigned readings
- Weekly homework assignments
- Mid-Term Exam
- Final Exam

The homework assignments are the heart of the class. In order to learn how to do semantics, you have to do it yourself. You are welcome to discuss homework with your classmates, but you have to write up what you turn in on your own and indicate who you worked with.

Homework has to be turned in on time. This will make sure that you don't fall behind. The mid-term and the final will contain exercises similar to those on the homework assignments. On some of the assignments, you will have the option of earning extra credit by answering more open-ended, research oriented homework questions from the assignments for the graduate students in the class.

Your grade for the class will be based on your homework (70%) and your exams (15% each). Your lowest homework grade will not be counted towards your grade.

5 Textbooks

Heim, I. & A. Kratzer. 1998. *Semantics in Generative Grammar*. Blackwell.

[Check for used copies at Amazon etc.!]

Partee, B., Ter Meulen, A. , and Wall. 1990. *Mathematical Methods in Linguistics*. Kluwer.

Other useful resources (we'll read excerpts from some of these):

- Bach, E. 1989. *Informal Lectures on Formal Semantics*. State University of New York Press.
- Chierchia, G., and McConnell-Ginet, S. 1990. *Meaning and Grammar: An Introduction to Semantics*. MIT Press.
- Gamut, L.T.F. 1991. *Logic, Language, and Meaning*. Volume 1 and 2. University of Chicago Press.
- Partee, B., and P. Portner. 2002. *Formal Semantics. The Essential Readings*. Blackwell.
- Portner, P. 2005. *What is Meaning: Fundamentals of Formal Semantics*. Wiley-Blackwell.
- Potts, C. 2007. *Logic for Linguists*. http://udrive.oit.umass.edu/potts/web/lsa07/lsa108P/

6 Tentative Schedule

Class #	**Topic**	**Reading**	**Homework**
1	Introduction	HK 1	
2	Sets & Functions	PtMW 1	
3	Sets & Functions	PtMW 2	HW 1 out
4	Statement Logic	PtMW 5 & 6-6.5	
5	Composing Basic Meanings	HK 2.1-2.2	HW 1 in, 2 out
6	The λ-Notation	HK 2.3-2.5 Bach 1	
7	Semantics & Syntax	HK 3	HW 2 in, 3 out
8	Modification	HK 4.1-4.3	
9		HK 4.4-4.5	
10	Definite Descriptions	HK 4.4-4.5	HW 3 in, 4 out
11	Relative Clauses & Variables	HK 5.1-5.2	
12	Relative Clauses & Variables	HK 5.3	HW 4 in
13	Mid-Term		
14	Variable Binding	HK 5.4-5.5	HW 5 out
15	Predicate Logic	PtMW 7	
16	Type Theory & λ-Calculus	Potts 4-6, PtMW 13	HW 5 in, 6 out
17	Intro to Quantification in Natural Language		
18	Natural Language Quantifiers	HK 6	HW 6 in, 7 out
19	Natural Language Quantifiers	HK 6	
20	Quantification and Grammar	HK 7	HW 7 in
21	Quantification and Grammar	HK 7	
22	Quantifier Raising	HK 8	HW 8 out
23	Quantifier Raising	HK 8	
24	Pronouns& Binding	HK 9	HW 8 in
25	Pronouns & Binding	HK 10	
26	Wrap-up		