

School of Linguistics & Language Studies
LING 4510, PHIL 4055, LING 5510, PHIL 5660 [0.5 credit]
Winter 2023

Lexical Semantics

Class schedule: Friday 11:35 – 14:25
Location: Southam Hall 409
Instructor: Marie-Odile Junker
Office: 1927 Dunton Tower
Tel: 520-2600 ext. 7601
e-mail*: marie-odile_junker@carleton.ca
Office hours: after class and by appointment

*Important: When you send me an e-mail use your Carleton account and put "Lexical Semantics" on the subject line.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Study of the meaning of words. Topics may include lexical decomposition, meaning variation, lexical relations, and lexical aspect.

Focus questions for this year:

- How do we conduct cross-linguistic investigations into the meaning of words?
- How do we break away from the hazards of English as a default language?
- How do we create quality dictionaries for Indigenous languages?

COURSE OBJECTIVES

At the end of this course, you will be expected to:

- Have developed a critical understanding of the methods of lexical semantics
- Expanded your awareness of cross-cultural variation in the lexicon

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- Weekly readings and assignments. Respecting deadlines
- Regular in-class quizzes (you must bring your computer to class on those days)
- Adopt-a-word Lightning Talk: This is a lexical study that you conduct during the whole semester. It can be on English or on another language, using a theme. You will be discussing several subparts in the forum as we progress through the course material. The final version will be in the form of a Lightning Talk. *More specific information about this assignment will be given during the course*
- Forum participation
- One class presentation/discussion of some of the readings. See presentations calendar on Bright Space.
- Regular attendance and participation in class discussion, including small group discussions
- Final exam

Please turn off and put away your cellphone during class



EVALUATION

Lightening Talk	25%
Participation (Forum, in-class participation, group presentations)	25%
Quizzes	25%
Final exam	25%

TEXTBOOKS

Murphy, M. Lynne. 2010. *Lexical Meaning*. Cambridge Textbooks in Linguistics. Cambridge University Press. 256 p.

Relevant to this year's course focus:

Wierzbicka, Anna. 2014. *Imprisoned in English: the hazards of English as a default language*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. [electronic resource]

Goddard, Cliff and Anna Wierzbicka. 2014. *Words and meanings: lexical semantics across domains, languages, and cultures*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. 314 p.

Wierzbicka, Anna. 1997. *Understanding cultures through their keywords: English, Russian, Polish, German, and Japanese*. New York: Oxford University Press. 317 p.

Goddard, Cliff. (ed.) 2021. *Minimal Languages in Action*. Palgrave Macmillan, Springer International Publishing. XX, 352 p.

All readings are available on reserve.

Web resources: the Algonquian Dictionaries project: <https://dictionaries.atlas-ling.ca>

COURSE CALENDAR. Please also check Bright Space for updates.

Abbreviations to book chapters:

LM = Lexical Meaning

IE = Imprisoned in English

W&M = Words and Meaning

Other abbreviations:

Q = Quiz

F= Q&A Forum

Week & date	Readings /Lectures	Class presentations (see list of presenters)	Tentative dates for quizzes and Forum posts
Week 1 Sept 8	LM 1-2	Opening class: introductory overview Discussion of aims and goals of the course	
Week 2 Jan 20	IE 1 IE 2 LM-1-2	IE 1 Recognizing the Contingency of One Own's Language IE 2 Naming the World or Construing the World?	

Week 3 Jan 27	IE3 LM-3	IE 3 The Givens of Human Life	
Week 4 Feb 3	IE 4 LM 4	IE 4 Universal Words, Semantic Atoms and Semantic Molecules	Quiz 1 F1
Week 5 Feb 10	IE 6 LM 5	IE 6 Anglo Values vs. Human Values: Talking about Values in a Global World	F1
Week 6 Feb 17	IE 7 LM 6	IE 7 Human Emotions and English Words: Are Anger and Disgust Universal?	Quiz 2 F2
WINTER BREAK (Feb 24)			
Week 7 March 3	Cultural Keywords LM 7	Japanese Keywords and Core Cultural Values. Chap 6 of: Wierzbicka, Anna (1997) <i>Understanding cultures through their key words: English, Russian, Polish, German, and Japanese</i> . New York: Oxford University Press. Pp 246-291.	Quiz 3 F2
Week 8 March 10	IE 11 LM 8	IE 11 Thinking about "Things" in Yucatec and English	F3
Week 9 March 17	Physical activities LM 9	Contrastive semantics of physical activity verbs: 'Cutting' and 'chopping' in English, Polish, and Japanese. By Cliff Goddard & Anna Wierzbicka. 2009. <i>Language Sciences</i> . Volume 31, Issue 1, Pages 60-96.	Quiz 4 F3
Week 10 March 31	W&M 7 LM 10	W&M 7 Suggesting, apologizing, complimenting: English speech-act verbs	F4
Week 11 April 7	W&M 3 LM 11	W&M 3 Sweet, hot, hard, heavy, rough, sharp: Physical quality words in cross-linguistic perspective	Quiz 5 F4
Week 12 April 12 (WEDNESDAY)	W&M 5	W&M 5 Happiness and human values in cross-cultural and historical perspective <i>Review- Discussion of lightning talks</i>	
April 15		<i>Submission of Adopt-a-word lightning talk</i>	
TBD			Final exam

Instructional Offences

In all written work, students must avoid plagiarism, i.e presenting the work or ideas of another as one's own. Forms of plagiarism include copying from the work of another author without proper use of footnotes and quotation marks, using the ideas of others without acknowledging the source, extensive paraphrasing, or submitting the work of another as one's own. Plagiarism is a serious offence, which will

be reported to the Office of the Dean of the appropriate Faculty. Penalties are not trivial. They can include a final grade of "F" for the course.

Course material, available on Brightspace, is exclusively for the purpose of the course. Recordings of lectures, if any, are not to be used, manipulated or shared in any way, especially not on Social Media.

Academic Accommodation

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows:

Pregnancy obligation: write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist.

Religious obligation: write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist.

For more details: <https://carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf>

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520- 6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (if applicable).

Survivors of Sexual Violence: As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated, and where survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per Carleton's Sexual Violence Policy. For more information about the services available at the university and to obtain information about sexual violence and/or support, visit: <https://carleton.ca/equity/sexual-assault-support-services>

Accommodation for Student Activities: Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and for the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom experience. Reasonable accommodation must be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. Write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. <https://carleton.ca/senate/wp-content/uploads/Accommodation-for-Student-Activities-1.pdf>

Student Mental Health

As a University student you may experience a range of mental health challenges that significantly impact your academic success and overall well-being. If you need help, please speak to someone. There are numerous resources available both on- and off-campus to support you. Here is a list that may be helpful:

Emergency Resources (on and off campus): <https://carleton.ca/health/emergencies-and-crisis/emergency-numbers/>

Carleton Resources:

- Mental Health and Wellbeing: <https://carleton.ca/wellness/>
- Health & Counselling Services: <https://carleton.ca/health/>
- Paul Menton Centre: <https://carleton.ca/pmc/>
- Academic Advising Centre (AAC): <https://carleton.ca/academicadvising/>

- Centre for Student Academic Support (CSAS): <https://carleton.ca/csas/>
- Equity & Inclusivity Communities: <https://carleton.ca/equity/>

Off Campus Resources:

- Distress Centre of Ottawa and Region: (613) 238-3311 or TEXT: 343-306-5550, <https://www.dcottawa.on.ca/>
- Mental Health Crisis Service: (613) 722-6914, 1-866-996-0991, <http://www.crisisline.ca/>
- Empower Me: 1-844-741-6389, <https://students.carleton.ca/services/empower-me-counselling-services/>
- Good2Talk: 1-866-925-5454, <https://good2talk.ca/>
- The Walk-In Counselling Clinic: <https://walkincounselling.com>

Pandemic Measures

It is important to remember that COVID is still present in Ottawa. The situation can change at any time and the risks of new variants and outbreaks are very real. There are **a number of actions you can take** to lower your risk and the risk you pose to those around you including being vaccinated, wearing a mask, staying home when you're sick, washing your hands and maintaining proper respiratory and cough etiquette.

Feeling sick? Remaining vigilant and not attending work or school when sick or with symptoms is critically important. If you feel ill or exhibit COVID-19 symptoms do not come to class or campus. If you feel ill or exhibit symptoms while on campus or in class, please leave campus immediately. In all situations, you should follow Carleton's **symptom reporting protocols**.

Masks: Masks are no longer mandatory in university buildings and facilities. However, we continue to recommend masking when indoors, particularly if physical distancing cannot be maintained. We are aware that personal preferences regarding optional mask use will vary greatly, and we ask that we all show consideration and care for each other during this transition.

Vaccines: While proof of vaccination is no longer required to access campus or participate in in-person Carleton activities, it may become necessary for the University to bring back proof of vaccination requirements on short notice if the situation and public health advice changes. Students are strongly encouraged to get a full course of vaccination, including booster doses as soon as they are eligible and submit their booster dose information in **cuScreen** as soon as possible. Please note that Carleton cannot guarantee that it will be able to offer virtual or hybrid learning options for those who are unable to attend the campus.

All members of the Carleton community are required to follow requirements and guidelines regarding health and safety which may change from time to time. For the most recent information about Carleton's COVID-19 response and health and safety requirements please see the **University's COVID-19 website** and review the **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**. Should you have additional questions after reviewing, please contact covidinfo@carleton.ca.