

LING 4347 (001): Pragmatics Spring 2020

Instructor Contact Information

Professor:	Dr. Laurel Smith Stvan
Faculty Profile:	https://mentis.uta.edu/explore/profile/laurel-stvan
Class Meetings:	Mon. and Wed. 5:30-6:50pm in 20 Trimble Hall
Stvan Office Hours:	Wed. 3-4 and Thur. 12-1, and other times by appointment
Stvan Office:	132 Hammond (with the dark windows)
Phone:	(817) 272-9489
Email:	via Canvas or stvan@uta.edu (preferred method!)
TAs:	
	Ms. Emily Williams
Office Hours:	Tues. 2:00-3:00pm and Thurs. 5:00-6:00pm
Office:	121 Hammond Hall
Email:	emily.williams@uta.edu
	Ms. Xinwen Zhang
Office Hours:	Mon 1:30-2:30pm and Wed 1:30-2:30pm
Office:	128 Hammond Hall
Email:	xinwen.zhang@uta.edu

Description of Course Content

We will study ways that the context and form of an utterance interact to affect speaker's intended meaning beyond literal word meaning. Our main topics this term will include reference, deixis, implicature, presupposition, and speech acts.

The prerequisite for the course is LING 3311, or consent of the instructor.

This is an undergraduate-level course with two objectives:

- to provide practice in analyzing the impact of truth conditions, context, and speaker intention on the interpretation of meaning.
- to provide practice reading and discussing linguistic topics on pragmatics in order to gain insight into both theoretical aspects and practical applications of conveying meaning in communication.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successfully completing this course, students should be able to:

- identify and explain basic questions investigated in pragmatics in order to situate the core issues of context-dependent meaning
- describe and illustrate how presuppositions can be identified in language
- describe and illustrate how hearers can calculate an indirect speech act and a conversational implicature
- describe ways in which speaker expectations about meaning created through interlocutor interaction could affect cross-cultural conversations and second language instruction
- show that you can find, assess, contribute, and cite verifiable definitions and references in order to build up wiki pages on designated topics in pragmatics

Required Course Materials

We'll be accessing three types of materials

1. The first is a required textbook, *Analyzing Meaning: An introduction to semantics and pragmatics* by Paul R. Kroeger. It is available free online from Open Textbook Library:
<https://open.umn.edu/opentextbooks/textbooks/analyzing-meaning-an-introduction-to-semantics-and-pragmatics>
(It's the second corrected and slightly revised edition from 2018.)
2. A set of required articles, and copies of the class handouts and slides will be available on Canvas shortly after class starts: Log in to Canvas here:
<https://uta.instructure.com>
3. You'll need to set up a free account on Wikipedia and do some online training to learn how to contribute to Wikipedia articles on pragmatics. I'll send you instructions on how to set this up through the Wikiedu.org course site in the second week of the course.

(In addition, recommended supplemental books will also be available on 3-hour reserve at the UTA Central Library. I'll be posting a list of the reserve books on Canvas.)

Descriptions of Major Assignments and Examinations

Contributions from the Textbook and Lecture (Book Total: 110 points)

Class Attendance + Participation Total	20
Reference and deixis exercise	15 20
Gricean implicature exercise	15 0
Direct and indirect speech act exercise	15 20
Choice of reflection exercise (UTASCILT, TESOL, ACES, 5-Minute Linguist, etc.)	15 20
Final exam, now done online, open book	30

Contributions from Wikipedia Editing (Wiki Total: 90 points)

Get started on Wikipedia	5
Evaluate a Wiki article	10
Add a citation to an existing article	10
Draft a section of your group's article	15
Respond to your peer reviews	15
Group in-class presentation	15 0
Reflection on editing the final article	20 35

Grand Total for all Class Work:	(200 points)
--	---------------------

Grading

The grades for each component will be determined as follows:

A+ 97-100%	A 93-96%	A- 90-92%
B+ 87-89%	B 83-86%	B- 80-82%
C+ 77-79%	C 73-76%	C- 70-72%
D+ 67-69%	D 63-66%	D- 60-62%
F 59 or lower		

Students are expected to keep track of their performance throughout the semester and seek guidance from available sources (including the instructor) if their performance drops below satisfactory levels. See “Student Support Services” below.

Grade Grievances

Any appeal of a grade in this course must follow the procedures and deadlines for grade-related grievances as published in the current University Catalog. See the [Undergraduate Grading Policies](#) and non-grade-related [Student Complaints](#).

Expectations for Out-of-Class Study

Plan ahead for how much time you’ll need this semester. Beyond the time required to attend each class meeting, students enrolled in this course should expect to spend at least **an additional three** hours per week of their own time in course-related activities, including reading required materials, completing assignments, preparing for exams, etc.

Attendance

At The University of Texas at Arlington, taking attendance is not required but attendance is a critical indicator of student success. Each faculty member is free to develop his or her own methods of evaluating students’ academic performance, which includes establishing course-specific policies on attendance. As the instructor of this section, I have established the following attendance policy: Class attendance and participation is **required**. You are responsible for the material presented in class lectures and for any handouts or exercises, or any group work from each class session; for your own benefit, come to class. But if you must miss a lecture, please do the reading and homework, get notes and clarification from another student, and then make an appointment to talk to me as soon as possible about any questions you have on that day’s materials.

Assignments are due at the beginning of class on the day listed in the schedule, and no later. No late assignments will be accepted without instructor approval, though even approved late submissions may receive a reduction in points.

However, while UT Arlington does not require instructors to take attendance in their courses, the U.S. Department of Education requires that the University have a mechanism in place to mark when Federal Student Aid recipients “begin attendance in a course.” UT Arlington instructors will report when students begin attendance in a course as part of the final grading process. Specifically, when assigning a student a grade of F, faculty report must the last date a student attended their class based on evidence such as a test, participation in a class project or presentation, or an engagement online via Canvas. This date is reported to the Department of Education for federal financial aid recipients.

Institution Information

UTA students are encouraged to review the below institutional policies and informational sections and reach out to the specific office with any questions. To view this institutional information, please visit the [Institutional Information](https://resources.uta.edu/provost/course-related-info/institutional-policies.php) page (<https://resources.uta.edu/provost/course-related-info/institutional-policies.php>) which includes the following policies among others:

- Drop Policy
- Disability Accommodations
- Title IX Policy
- Academic Integrity
- Student Feedback Survey
- Final Exam Schedule

Emergency Exit Procedures

Should we experience an emergency event that requires evacuation of the building, students should exit the room and move toward the nearest exit: Go out the door and turn right. At the hallway intersection, go to the left, go out the double doors, and walk up the stairs. When exiting the building during an emergency, do not take an elevator but use the stairwells instead. Faculty members and instructional staff will assist students in selecting the safest route for evacuation and will make arrangements to assist individuals with disabilities.

Student Success Programs

UT Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. Resources include [tutoring by appointment](#), [drop-in tutoring](#), [etutoring](#), [supplemental instruction](#), [mentoring](#) (time management, study skills, etc.), [success coaching](#), [TRIO Student Support Services](#), and [student success workshops](#). For additional information, please email resources@uta.edu, or view the [Maverick Resources](#) website.

The IDEAS Center (<https://www.uta.edu/ideas/>) (2nd Floor of Central Library) offers **FREE** tutoring and mentoring to all students with a focus on transfer students, sophomores, veterans and others undergoing a transition to UT Arlington. Students can drop in or check the schedule of available peer tutors at www.uta.edu/IDEAS, or call (817) 272-6593.

The English Writing Center (411LIBR)

The Writing Center offers **FREE** tutoring in 15-, 30-, 45-, and 60-minute face-to-face and online sessions to all UTA students on any phase of their UTA coursework. Register and make appointments online at the Writing Center (<https://uta.mywconline.com>). Classroom visits, workshops, and specialized services for graduate students and faculty are also available. Please see Writing Center: OWL for detailed information on all our programs and services.

The Library's 2nd floor Academic Plaza (<http://library.uta.edu/academic-plaza>) offers students a central hub of support services, including IDEAS Center, University Advising Services, Transfer UTA and various college/school advising hours. Services are available during the library's hours of operation.

Librarian to Contact

Each academic unit has access to Librarians by Academic Subject that can assist students with research projects, tutorials on plagiarism and citation references as well as support with databases and course reserves. Our librarian for language-related classes, is **Diane Shepelwich**: dianec@uta.edu

Places at the Library to Ask for Help

- Academic Plaza Consultation Services (library.uta.edu/academic-plaza)
- Ask Us (ask.uta.edu/)
- Research Coaches (<http://libguides.uta.edu/researchcoach>)

Library Resources

- Library Tutorials (library.uta.edu/how-to)
- Linguistics and TESOL Research Guides
(<https://libguides.uta.edu/LinguisticsInfo>)
- Librarians by Subject (library.uta.edu/subject-librarians)
- A to Z List of Library Databases (libguides.uta.edu/az.php)
- Reserves (https://uta.summon.serialssolutions.com/#!/course_reserves)
- Study Room Reservations (openroom.uta.edu/)

Auditors

Department of Linguistics and TESOL faculty, staff, and students currently enrolled in a linguistics/TESOL programs may be able to audit a course (with the permission of the professor). Audited courses cannot be used to satisfy any

degree or program requirements/electives, nor will any credit (including retroactive) be granted for audited courses.

Tentative Schedule of Assignments

Last Updated—**March 25, 2020**: As the instructor for this course, I reserve the right to adjust this schedule in any way that serves the educational needs of the students enrolled in this course: Laurel Stvan.

1. Wed. Jan. 21 Overview of the class and Organizational stuff
Overview of Pragmatics
2. Mon. Jan. 27 Kroeger Ch. 1 The meaning of meaning
Wed. Jan. 29 Introduction to the Wikipedia project
3. Mon. Feb. 3 Kroeger Ch. 2: Referring, denoting, and expressing
Wed. Feb. 5 Evaluate Wiki content and sources +
1-3 modules of training due
4. Mon. Feb. 10 Add a citation to a Wiki article + module 4 due
Wed. Feb. 12 Reference and deixis exercise due in Canvas
5. Mon. Feb. 17 Kroeger Ch. 3 Truth and inference
Wed. Feb. 19 Wiki Sources and Plagiarism
Set up page groups and topics
6. Mon. Feb. 24 More on Presupposition
Wed. Feb. 26 Draft your group's Wiki article in class (due on Thur)
7. Mon. Mar. 2 Kroeger Ch. 8 Grice's theory of implicature
Wed. Mar. 4 Write two peer reviews of other group's articles

- Mon. Mar. 9 Spring Break—No classes**
Wed. Mar. 11 Spring Break—No classes

Mon. Mar. 16
Wed. Mar. 18

Extended Spring Break—No classes
Extended Spring Break—No classes

9. Mon. Mar. 23
Wed. Mar. 25

Kroeger Ch. 10: Indirect Speech Acts
~~Gricean implicature exercise due in Canvas—cancelled~~

10. Mon. Mar. 30

Work on response to your Wiki article peer reviews

Wed. April 1

Response to Wikipedia Peer Review, **due in Canvas**
Teams discussion on Moving your group's article out of the Sandbox

11. Mon. April 6
Wed. Apr. 8

Direct & Indirect Speech Act **exercise due in Canvas**
Teams discussion on Improving your Wiki article

12. Mon. Apr. 13

Keep polishing your Wiki article
Read posted article on teaching L2 pragmatics

Wed. Apr. 15

Teams discussion on teaching L2 pragmatics

13. Mon. Apr. 20
Wed. Apr. 22

Groups can meet together on Teams to finalize your wiki article

14. Mon. Apr. 27
Wed. Apr. 29

Teams meeting—open topic
Your choice of reflection essay due in Canvas

15. Mon. May 4

In class group presentations
(on either UTASCILT, TESOL or 5-Minute Linguist)

Wed. May 6

Reflections on your group's Wiki article due in Canvas
Teams online Review for the exam

Exam Week

Online Final Exam

Opened on Monday

Due by Wednesday, May 13 at 8 p.m.

Wed. Feb. 5
Fri. April 10

Additional Semester Dates to Note

Census Date (last day to add into a class)

Last day to drop a course (see your advisor by 4 pm)

Emergency Phone Numbers

In case of an on-campus emergency, call the UT Arlington Police Department at **817-272-3003** (on a non-campus phone), or **2-3003** (on a campus land line). You may also dial 911. The non-emergency number 817-272-3381