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# Semantics

## Prof. Aldo Frigerio

***COURSE AIMS AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES***

The aim of the course is to answer the question “what is meaning?”, drawing out the answer from our preconceptions and intuitions about meaning.

The course will equip students with concise but systematic knowledge of a philosophical-linguistic theory of meaning and ensure their effective understanding of it; this understanding will not be limited to memorised knowledge, but will include the ability to reason and reflect independently, using basic terminological and critical competences.

***COURSE CONTENT***

* What is a sign? What is a language? What is communication?
* Lexical semantics
* Semantics of nominal and verbal structures
* Semantics of proposition
* Elements of pragmatics: illocutionary acts and communicative implicature.

***READING LIST***

A. Frigerio, *Filosofia del linguaggio,* Apogeo Education, Milan, 20202. This is a second, revised edition, which replaces the first.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Frontal lectures.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Written exam with closed and open questions designed to assess:

– students’ acquisition of the notions of theoretical semantics during the course.

– the ability to apply this knowledge to actual examples, an objective further and more systematically pursued in the “Semantics Workshop”.

Each answer is worth a number of points. The maximum number of points is 31, which corresponds to 30 with *honours*. Students must achieve a score of 18/30 to pass.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

The course lasts one semester, (30 hours), and is taught in semester 1. It is a prerequisite for (and supplemented by) the Semantics Workshop, which is held in semester 2.

As this is an introductory course, it has no prerequisites in terms of contents.

Further information can be found on the lecturer's webpage at http://docenti.unicatt.it/web/searchByName.do?language=ENG or on the Faculty notice board.

**Semantics Workshop**

## Prof. Aldo Frigerio

***COURSE AIMS AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES***

The aim of the course is for students to deepen their knowledge from semester 1 and apply the tools acquired to actual texts and examples.

By the end of the course, students will be able to apply general concepts to concrete data and to link the concrete data to the general concepts. In addition, they will be able to produce considered answers regarding the cases analysed and to find shared solutions as a team.

***COURSE CONTENT***

* Theoretical exploration of some of the concepts provided in semester 1, such as thematic roles, the semantic-syntactic structure of nominal and verbal syntagms, and the generation of communicative implicature.
* Semantic analysis of texts circulated in class aimed at teaching students to recognise predicative-argumentative relationships, thematic roles, referential and coreferential expressions, illocutionary acts and communicative implicature.

***READING LIST***

Materials made available on Blackboard

***TEACHING METHOD***

Frontal lectures on theoretical aspects.

Practical analysis of texts, conducted in class under the guidance of the lecturer, with interactions between the students, which aims to consolidate competences – on a critical and applied level – relating to the relationship between textual data and theories.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Students will be assessed on their activities during the practical classes as well as their interactions with the lecturer and other students. Students will also produce papers containing semantic analyses of the texts discussed in class, which must be given to the lecturer at least one week before the exam date selected. The results will be shared and discussed during the exam. For non-attending students, these must be more detailed and complete, as the final mark will be based solely on them.

For attending students: classroom activities (50%), papers submitted to the lecturer (50%).

For non-attending students: papers submitted to the lecturer (100%)

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

The course lasts for a semester (30 hours), and is held in semester 2. Students require knowledge from semester 1 of the Semantics course.

Further information can be found on the lecturer's webpage at http://docenti.unicatt.it/web/searchByName.do?language=ENG or on the Faculty notice board.