Aristotle University of Thessaloniki Course title: **Issues in Theoretical Linguistics**

School of English **(**[**Ling2-521**](http://www.enl.auth.gr/course_en.asp?Id=373)**): *Semantics/Pragmatics* (MA)**

Dept of Theoretical and Applied Linguistics Winter semester 2015-16

Class sessions: Fridays 18:00-21:00

Instructor: V. Bardzokas

 Office hours: Friday 17:00-18:00 (309 Γ)

1. Course outline

In this course, you will learn about the most important component of language, its meaning. You will understand how we make meaning in language with words, expressions and sentences. In other words, we will explore lexical meaning, various relations between words, and how words organized in sentences can express ideas. In the first part of the course, called semantics, therefore, we will consider the concept of meaning attached to words, how we use words to refer to things in our world, and how words combined in sentences can refer to aspects of the world as in descriptions. In one word, you will learn how sentences can talk about the world.

However, we do not only describe the world with language, but most importantly, we act and perform in language, or, in one word, we socialize, get married, undertake to help others, apologize, or request, and all this is done exclusively with language. But we also often mean much more than what we say, or sometimes we mean other things than what we actually say. We will examine all these issues in the component of the course called pragmatics, but we’ll also see how the two components of semantics (meaning in language) and pragmatics (meaning more than you say, or doing in language) are intrinsically intertwined every time we use language.

The course is of immediate interest for the language teacher as it underpins current teaching methodologies, but it is also of interest to a variety of other language-based disciplines, s.a. literature, language impairment (semantic and pragmatic disorders), psychiatry, translation, computational linguistics, language programming, etc.

1. Main texts

The main texts for this course are:

*Semantics: Meaning in Language* by Eliza Kitis

(2012, Thessaloniki: University Studio Press)

*Pragmatic Meaning and Cognition* by Sophia Marmaridou

(2000, John Benjamins Publishing Company)

1. Other texts

[Chierchia](https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/414265.Gennaro_Chierchia), Gennaro & [Sally McConnell-Ginet](https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/189725.Sally_McConnell_Ginet) (1900). *Meaning and Grammar: An Introduction to Semantics. Cambridge Mass*.: MIT Press.

Carston, Robyn (2002). *Relevance Theory: the Pragmatics of Explicit Communication*. Malden, MA : Blackwell Publishing.

Levinson, Stephen (2000). *Presumptive Meanings: a theory of generalized conversational implicature*. Cambridge, Mass. : MIT Press.

Levinson, Stephen (1983). *Pragmatics*. Cambridge University Press.

Lyons, John (1977). *Semantics*,vol.1. Cambridge University Press.

Lyons, John (1977). *Semantics*,vol.2. Cambridge University Press.

May, Jacob (1993). *Pragmatics: An Introduction*. Blackwell Publishing.

Saeed, John (2003). *Semantics* (2nd ed.). Blackwell Publishing.

1. Learning Outcomes:

Successful completion of this course means that students will develop a better understanding of the following areas of semantics/pragmatics:

**Semantics**

The emergence of Semantics

Scope of semantics

The concept of meaning

Sentence meaning

Logical semantics

Predicates and events

Word meaning

Sense and sentence relations

Meaning and cognition

**Pragmatics**

Approaches to pragmatic analysis

Deixis

Presupposition

Implicature

Speech acts

1. Assessment

Students will confront all four components of the following continuous assessment process.

1. Presentation 1 (20% of the final grade)
2. Presentation 2 (20% of the final grade)
3. Extended assignment (50% of the final grade)
4. Class performance (10% of the final grade)

1. Assessment information
2. Attendance at all sessions is obligatory.
3. As the course schedule will be tight, students are expected to observe both the presentation timetable and the assignment submission deadline (when they become available).
4. With regard to the extended assignment, students must submit their assignments both as a hard-copy and electronic file.