

27846 - The Pragmatics of Communication

Syllabus Information

Academic Year: 2020/21

Subject: 27846 - The Pragmatics of Communication

Faculty / School: 103 - Facultad de Filosofía y Letras

Degree: 416 - Degree in English

ECTS: 6.0

Year: 3

Semester: First semester

Subject Type: Optional

Module: ---

1.General information

1.1.Aims of the course

1.2.Context and importance of this course in the degree

1.3.Recommendations to take this course

2.Learning goals

2.1.Competences

2.2.Learning goals

2.3.Importance of learning goals

3.Assessment (1st and 2nd call)

3.1.Assessment tasks (description of tasks, marking system and assessment criteria)

4.Methodology, learning tasks, syllabus and resources

4.1.Methodological overview

See "Learning tasks " and "Syllabus".

More information will be provided on the first day of class.

4.2.Learning tasks

This is a 6 ECTS course organized as follows:

- Lectures.
- Practice sessions.
- Autonomous work and study.
- Assessment tasks.

4.3.Syllabus

This course will address the following topics:

Topic 1. Introduction: Grammar, pragmatics, and discourse.

Topic 2: Communication in written and spoken discourse/registers in English: pragmatic differences (Principles of Textual Rhetoric. The processability principle. The end-focus maxim. The end-weight maxim. The end-scope maxim. The Clarity Principle. The Economy Principle. The Expressivity Principle. Register analysis. The communicative dimension of context.

Written and spoken modes of communication. Spoken vs. written English).

Topic 3: The pragmatics of written and spoken genres in English-medium communication (The pragmatic and semiotic dimensions of context. Genre analysis. Written and spoken genres).

Topic 4: Speech acts and language functions, the cooperative principle and the concept of implicature. Grice's maxims. The theory of relevance.

Topic 5: The interpersonal function of language. Pragmatic politeness: the principle of politeness. The concept of face. Positive and negative politeness.

Compulsory readings:

- Mey, J. L. (1993). *Pragmatics: An Introduction*. Oxford: Blackwell (2nd ed. 2001).
- Verschueren, J. (1999). *Understanding Pragmatics*. London, New York: Arnold Publishers.

Recommended readings:

- Austin, J. L. (1962) *How to Do Things With Words*. Oxford University Press.
- Brown, P., and S. C. Levinson. (1978) *Politeness: Some Universals in Language Usage*. Cambridge University Press.
- Carston, R. (2002) *Thoughts and Utterances: The Pragmatics of Explicit Communication*. Oxford: Blackwell.
- Copley, Paul (ed.) 1996. *The Communication Theory Reader*. London: Routledge.
- Cutting, J. (2002). *Pragmatics and Discourse: a resource book for student*. London. New York: Routledge.
- Dijk, T. A. van. (1977) *Text and Context. Explorations in the Semantics and Pragmatics of Discourse*. London: Longman.
- Grice, H. P. (1989) *Studies in the Way of Words*. Cambridge (MA): Harvard University Press.
- Grundy, P. (1995). *Doing Pragmatics*. London: Arnold.
- Hyland, K. (2005). *Metadiscourse*. London: Continuum.
- Kecskés, I. (2007). *Explorations in pragmatics: linguistic, cognitive, and intercultural aspects*. Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter.
- Laurence R. Horn and G. Ward. (2005). *The Handbook of Pragmatics*. Maiden: Blackwell.
- Leech, G. N. (1983). *Principles of Pragmatics*. London: Longman.
- Levinson, S. C. (1991) *Pragmatics*. Cambridge University Press.
- Palmer, F.R. (1995). *Grammar and Meaning*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Robinson, D. (2006). *Introducing Performative Pragmatics*. London and New York: Routledge.
- Searle, John (1969). *Speech Acts: An Essay in The Philosophy of Language*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Sperber, D. and Wilson, D. (2005). "Pragmatics." In F. Jackson and M. Smith (eds.), *Oxford Handbook of Contemporary Philosophy*. OUP, Oxford, 468-501.
- Verschueren, J., J. Östman, J. Blommaert, eds. (1995) *Handbook of Pragmatics*. Amsterdam: Benjamins.
- Wierzbicka, A. (1991). *Cross-cultural Pragmatics. The Semantics of Human Interaction*. Berlin, New York: Mouton de Gruyter.
- Yule, G. (1996). *Pragmatics* (Oxford Introductions to Language Study). Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Lecturas básicas
- Austin, J. L. (1962) *How to Do Things With Words*. Oxford University Press.
- Brown, P., and S. C. Levinson. (1978) *Politeness: Some Universals in Language Usage*. Cambridge University Press.
- Carston, R. (2002) *Thoughts and Utterances: The Pragmatics of Explicit Communication*. Oxford: Blackwell.
- Copley, Paul (ed.) 1996. *The Communication Theory Reader*. London: Routledge.
- Cutting, J. (2002). *Pragmatics and Discourse: a resource book for student*. London. New York: Routledge.
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- Yule, G. (1996). *Pragmatics* (Oxford Introductions to Language Study). Oxford: Oxford University Press.

4.4. Course planning and calendar

Further information concerning the timetable, classroom, office hours, assessment dates and other details regarding this course, will be provided on the first day of class or please refer to the Faculty of Philosophy and Arts website (academic calendar: <http://academico.unizar.es/calendario-academico/calendario>, timetable: <https://fyl.unizar.es/horario-de-clases#overlay-context=horario-de-clases>; assessment dates: <https://fyl.unizar.es/calendario-de-examenes#overlay-context=>)

4.5. Bibliography and recommended resources