

27846 - The Pragmatics of Communication

Syllabus Information

Academic year: 2024/25

Subject: 27846 - The Pragmatics of Communication

Faculty / School: 103 - Facultad de Filosofía y Letras

Degree: 416 - Degree in English

ECTS: 6.0

Year:

Semester: First semester

Subject type: Optional

Module:

1. General information

Pragmatics studies the use of language in relation to the interaction between utterances, context, and interlocutors, analyzing the impact of interpersonal relationships, world knowledge, and communicative purposes on communication. The course aims to provide a basic understanding of pragmatics focused on the comprehension, production, and interpretation of written and oral texts in English. These objectives are aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 4, 5, 10, 16, and 17 of the United Nations' 2030 Agenda (<https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/>), some of whose targets can be facilitated by acquiring the learning outcomes of the course. It is recommended to have a consolidated B2 level of English proficiency according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages in order to take this course.

2. Learning results

To pass this course, the student must demonstrate the following outcomes:

The student

- Understands and can critically identify and analyze pragmatic aspects of communication in English.
- Can define, describe, and critically interpret pragmatic aspects of communication in English using appropriate metalanguage.
- Can identify and critically analyze specific pragmatic aspects in English language texts.
- Can locate, select, relate, and organize information about pragmatic aspects of communication in written and oral discourse in English.
- Can apply acquired theoretical knowledge by conducting text analyses from a pragmatic perspective.
- Applies acquired theoretical knowledge in the analysis of complex texts in English.
- Evaluates multiculturalism in the analysis of complex texts in English critically.
- Conducts pragmatic analysis using online resources autonomously.

3. Syllabus

- Introduction: Grammar, semantics, pragmatics, and discourse.
- Communication in written and spoken discourse/registers in English: pragmatic differences. Principles of Textual Rhetoric: The Processability Principle and its maxims, the Clarity Principle, the Economy Principle, the Expressivity Principle. Register analysis. The communicative dimension of context.
- The pragmatic and semiotic dimensions of context. Genre analysis.
- Speech acts and language functions, the Cooperative Principle and the concept of implicature. Grice's maxims. The theory of Relevance.
- The interpersonal function of language. Pragmatic politeness: the principle of politeness. The concept of face. Positive and negative politeness.

4. Academic activities

The learning process is supported by directed, supervised, and autonomous educational activities. The directed activities include theoretical classes to explain, describe and identify the functions of pragmatic elements in the English language, as well as practical classes involving tasks to identify pragmatic features in different types of texts. Supervised activities consist of individual and group tutorials to monitor tasks with advisory techniques.

Autonomous, non-face-to-face activities focus on the preparation of an individual pragmatic analysis essay and personal study, bibliographic research, and readings.

Assessment: Theoretical-practical written exam at the end of the semester.
Additional specifications: All classes and tutorials will be conducted in English.

5. Assessment system

1st ASSESSMENT CALL: Global assessment consisting of (A) a theoretical-practical written exam in English, which will involve identifying and analyzing pragmatic aspects of communication in various written and oral texts in English. It will account for 80% of the final mark. To pass this exam, a minimum score of 50% must be achieved; and (B) a project (20% of the final mark): developing a topic on pragmatics or analyzing pragmatic aspects applied to one or more authentic texts in English.

Assessment criteria: Both tests will assess the clarity of presentation and argumentation; the comprehension, identification, application, and interpretation of theoretical and applied notions of pragmatics; the rigour and consistency in argumentation and analysis; and a consolidated B2 level of proficiency in the English language.

2nd ASSESSMENT CALL

GLOBAL EVALUATION, IDENTICAL TO THE FIRST ASSESSMENT CALL.

6. Sustainable Development Goals

4 - Quality Education

10 - Reduction of Inequalities

17 - Partnerships for the Goals