

Ling 200C: Semantics 1

when: Winter 2016, TTh 2–4

where: Haines A6

who: Prof. Jessica Rett, rett@ucla.edu, Campbell 3103L
office hours Monday 12-2pm and by appointment

reading: *Formal Semantics: an introduction*, Ronnie Cann, 1993; select supplements (on website)

expectations: participation (20% of your grade); homework (40%); final paper & presentation (40%)

week	date	topic	reading	homework
1	Jan. 10 Jan. 12	introduction to semantics foundations of semantics	Chapter 1	
2	Jan. 17 Jan. 19	set theory & predicate logic 1 set theory & predicate logic 2	Chapter 2 (start–§2.1) Chapter 2 (§2.2–end)	
3	Jan. 24 Jan. 26	operators 1 operators 2	Chapter 3 (start–§3.3.3) Chapter 3 (§3.3.4–end)	Ch 2 exercises due
4	Jan. 31 Feb. 2	type theory pronouns	Chapter 4 SEP “Anaphora”	Ch 3 exercises due
5	Feb. 7 Feb. 9	lambda calculus 1 lambda calculus 2	Chapter 5 (start–§5.2) Chapter 5 (§5.3–end)	Ch 4 exercises due
6	Feb. 14 Feb. 16	quantification 1 quantification 2	Chapter 6 (start–§6.3) Chapter 6 (§6.4–end)	Ch 5 exercises due
7	Feb. 21 Feb. 23	movement 1 movement 2	H&K Chapter 5 (start – §5.2) H&K Chapter 5 (§5.3–end)	Ch 6 exercises due
8	Feb. 28 Mar. 2	tense & aspect 1 tense & aspect 2	Chapter 8 Partee 1973	Ch 7 exercises due
9	Mar. 7 Mar. 9	student presentations possible worlds	Chapter 9	Ch 8 exercises due
10	Mar. 14 Mar. 16	intensional semantics 1 intensional semantics 2	Chapter 10 (start–§10.2) Chapter 10 (§10.3–end)	Ch 9 exercises due

Participation: It’s important to read the book in its entirety, as we will only be able to cover a strict subset of the material you will need to complete your homework assignments. Your attendance and participation grade will be calculated in part on your ability to answer questions about the reading in class.

Homework: I will assign a subset of exercises from the week’s chapter on Thursdays, due the following Tuesdays, for a total of 8 assignments. Please use pencil, write neatly and spaciously, and end parentheses.

A note about learning semantics: More than ever, semantics is relevant to many subfields of many disciplines (e.g. phonology, ethics). As a result, it attracts students from a variety of backgrounds. At some point in this class, you will be exposed to a topic that seems familiar (e.g. quantifier scope to linguists, inference patterns to philosophers), in which case it will be tempting to tune out. I encourage you to resist this temptation: the hardest thing about interdisciplinary work is mastering not the content but the perspective. Listen to your classmates with different backgrounds so you can contextualize the content historically and outside of your knowledge base.

Final paper & presentation: A 10-15pg (single-spaced) paper is due on **Tuesday, March 28**. In it, I’d like you to review in detail the semantic treatment of an empirical phenomenon related to something discussed in class. Please first outline the phenomenon, then review at least two theoretical treatments of it, and end by presenting your evaluation of those treatments (and, optionally, your own proposal). A few tips:

- Start early and look ahead: we won’t get to particularly interesting data until Week 6. Review the book’s “Further reading” sections, and use Google Scholar to find recent work (and meet with me!).
- Present your phenomenon and at least one theory of it in a 15-minute presentation in class on March 7. Prepare a handout for the presentation.
- Consult my writing guide: http://www.linguistics.ucla.edu/people/rett/writing_advice_for_linguists.pdf