An age-old definition of linguistics is the investigation of the relation between sound and meaning. How is it that mere air vibrations or squiggles on a page can convey ideas, thoughts, beliefs, feelings? In this class we will consider this question. We will investigate what meanings are, which factors affect the meaning of an utterance, and consider the meanings of a variety of linguistic constructions.

Prerequisites: Introduction to Semantics

Topics to be covered:
1. Predicate logic: syntax, semantics (model theory), scope ambiguities (chapter 5)
2. Modal and temporal logic (chapter 7)
3. Intensions and extensions (8.1-8.2)
4. Definite descriptions (9.2)
5. Types and lambda calculus (9.4)

More as time permits…

Note: the book is not required, and all the material will be covered in class.