Name of the course: Semantics B
Lecturer name: Olga Kagan
Course number: 0-132-1-2758
Office hours: Wednesday 14:00-15:00

Short course description (5-10 lines) with key words at the end of the paragraph
In this course, we study advanced topics in formal semantics. We will look at natural language quantifiers, such as most, all, some, at least three, etc., and consider such properties as symmetry, monotonicity, conservativity, the strong/weak distinction, etc. We will also look at negative polarity items. We then turn to the semantic and pragmatic properties of gradable adjectives, such as tall. These adjectives denote properties that hold of different individuals to different degrees. Additional topics include tense and aspect (we will look at both lexical and grammatical aspect). Further topics, such as dative alternation, genericity, etc. will be introduced.

Keywords: semantics, pragmatics, quantifiers, gradable adjectives, aspect, tense

Course requirements:
Attendance required: yes
Papers: 20%
Exams: 60%
Midterm: 20%

Bibliography:


Selected Topics:
Semantics of quantifiers
Gradable predicates
Tense
Aspect
Individual-/Stage-level distinction
Dative alternation
Neo-Davidsonian analysis of events
Generic sentences
Specificity