



אוניברסיטת בן-גוריון בנגב
הפקולטה למדעי הרוח והחברה

המחלקה ל ספרויות זרות ובלשנות, תשע"ט 2020

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:

- Green, G. M. (1989). *Pragmatics and Natural Language Understanding*. Hillsdale, New Jersey: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates, Inc.
- Kearns, Kate. (2000). *Semantics*. New York: St. Martin's Press.
- Kennedy, Christopher and Louise McNally. (2005a). "Scale Structure, Degree Modification, and the Semantics of Gradable Predicates". *Language* 81(2): 345-381.
- Saeed, John I. (2002). *Semantics*. Blackwell: Oxford

Selected Topics:

Semantics of quantifiers

Gradable predicates

Tense

Aspect

Individual-/Stage-level distinction

Dative alternation

Neo-Davidsonian analysis of events

Generic sentences

Specificity