

## **SYLLABUS**

**Semantic Theory 2201923**

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This course studies the theory of semantics in its different aspects. It concentrates on the theoretical frameworks and the contexts within which vocabularies and sentences are used. Semantics is here studied within the framework of the recent semantic theories such as Generative Semantics and Interpretive Semantics and their subsequent versions. It also studies discourse representation, dynamic predicate logic, truth theoretic event, event semantics, situation semantics, and cognitive semantics.

### **Evaluation:**

- 1- Mid-Term Exam.....30
- 2- Participation and a paper.....30
- 3- Final Exam.....40

### **Term Paper:**

Each student must write a well organized academic term paper on one of the topics below. We MUST agree on the topic and the follow up procedures.

### **Text Book**

Saed, John (2003). *Semantics*. Blackwell.

### **Recommended Readings:**

-Cruse, Alan (2004). *Meaning in Language: An Introduction to Semantics and Pragmatics*. Oxford University Press.

Geeraerts, D. (2009). *Theories of Lexical Semantics*. OUP

- Hodges, W. (2001). Tarski's truth definitions. In the *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*.

- Hurford, James (2007). *The Origin of Meaning*. OUP.

Katz, J. (1971). Generative Semantics Is Interpretive Semantics. *Linguistic Inquiry*  
Vol. 2, No. 3, pp. 313-331

-Kearns, Kate (2000). *Semantics*. Macmillan.

- Kirkham, R. ( 1992). *Theories of Truth*. Bradford Books, ISBN 0-262-61108-2.

- Tarski, A. (1944). The Semantic Conception of Truth and the Foundations of Semantics. *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* 4

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Week one: Introduction

a- what is semantics?

b-semantics and other Linguistic disciplines.

c- semantic theories

Week two: Semantics and Linguistics

Week three: Meaning Thought and Reality

a-References

b-Mental representation

c-Words, Concept and thinking

Week four: Semantic description

a- Word meaning

b- Lexical relation

c- Derivational relation

d- Lexical Universal

Week five: Sentence relations and Truth.

a-logic and truth

b-entailment

c-presupposition

Week six: Sentence Semantics: Situation

a-classifying situation

b- modality and evidentiality

Week seven: Sentence Semantics: Participants

a-thematic roles

b-grammatical relations & thematic roles

c-verbs and thematic roles

d- problems and Motivations

e-voice

Week eight: Context and interference

a-Deixis

b- Reference and Context

c-Knowledge as Context

Week nine: Context and interference

d-Information Structure

e-inference

f-Conversational Implication

**Week ten: Mid-Term Exam**

Week eleven: Function of Language: Speech as an Action

a-Austin's Speech Act Theory

b- categorizing speech act

c-indirect speech act

d-sentence types

Week twelve: Meaning components

a- lexical relations in CA

b-Katz's Semantic Theory

c-grammatical rules and semantic components

d-Jackendoff's Conceptual structure

e-Pustejovsky's Generative lexicon

f-problems with components of meaning

-Week thirteen: Formal Semantics

13- week fourteen: Cognitive Semantics

a-Metaphor

b-Metonymy

c-Polysemy

d-Langacker's Cognitive Grammar

14-weeks fifteen & sixteen: The relationship between semantic theories

presentation of the term papers