

Ling 165C: Semantics 2

when: Spring 2014, TTh 2-4

where: Bunche 3164

who: Prof. Jessica Rett, rett@ucla.edu, Campbell 3103L

TA Lauren Winans, lauren.winans@ucla.edu, Campbell 2209

(section is Friday from 10-11am in Rolfe 3105)

(office hours: Tuesdays 4-6pm)

(office hours: Thursdays 12-1pm)

expectations:

bi-weekly squibs (40% of your grade) class presentation (10% of your grade) final paper (50% of your grade)

reading:

What is meaning? Fundamentals of formal semantics, by Paul Portner. Blackwell, 2005;

and supplements posted on the course website, <https://ccl.e.ucla.edu/course/view/14S-LING165C-1>

week	date	topic	readings	squibs
1	April 1 April 3	introduction CLASS CANCELED	Portner Chapter 1 (for section)	
2	April 8 April 10	<i>background week 1:</i> the semantics of proper names	Portner Chapter 2 Portner Chapter 5, §5.0-5.4	
3	April 15 April 17	<i>data week 1:</i> names in Modern Greek	Matushanksy 2006, §1-3	squib 1 due
4	April 22 April 24	<i>background week 2:</i> plurals and kinds	Portner, Chapter 5, §5.5-5.7	
5	April 29 May 1	<i>data week 2:</i> English bare plurals	Carlson 1977	squib 2 due
6	May 6 May 8	<i>background week 3:</i> CLASS CANCELED	Kearns 2000, §9.0-9.2.1 & §9.3.1 Portner Chapter 4, §4.2 & 4.4 (for section)	
7	May 13 May 15	<i>data week 3:</i> the modifier <i>almost</i>	Winter 2006, §1-3	squib 3 due
8	May 20 May 22	<i>background week 4:</i> modals and possible worlds	Portner Chapters 7 & 8	
9	May 27 May 29	<i>data week 4:</i> the auxiliary verb <i>will</i>	Klecha 2014	squib 4 due
10	June 3 June 5	student presentations student presentations		

about the squibs

'Squib' is a word for a very brief paper. *Your squibs should be around 500 words (one page single-spaced or two pages double-spaced).* These squibs are an opportunity for you to show that you are following the readings and class discussion, and that you're able to apply this knowledge (instead of just summarizing it). Ideally, your squib would consist of a brief summary of some aspect of what we've discussed and then the exploration of at least one question that arises when you think about that topic. (Examples: Portner gave some examples of the contrast between semantic meaning and speaker meaning... what are some other examples? The distinction between definiteness and indefiniteness is marked on determiners in English... what happens in languages that don't use determiners?)

about the paper

Your final paper should be based on one of the topics we cover in class. You could examine how a given phenomenon works in a language we do not cover; you could discuss the philosophical or computational ramifications of a phenomenon or theory; you could read and review experimental investigations of a phenomenon. I will be posting some possible paper topics on the website as the quarter progresses, but feel free to come up with your own. It will be *a lot* easier for you to choose a topic and research it if you meet with me beforehand, so please either visit my or Lauren's office hours to discuss your paper, or email me or Lauren to schedule a meeting; the earlier the better. If you fail to do so, it will certainly negatively affect your paper grade. *Your papers should be 3,000-4,000 words (8-10 pages single-spaced or 12-16 double-spaced).*

about the presentation

You will each give a 10-15 minute presentation about your paper in Week 10. The presentations will be in alphabetical order, with some of you presenting on Tuesday and the others on Thursday. You should think of the presentations as an opportunity to get organized early, and to get feedback from me, Lauren and your classmates before you sit down to write the paper. *Please make a handout for your presentation so that we can easily refer to your main points and data.*