

**Semantics and Pragmatics – AN31005BA/AN5301OMA**  
**3-credit seminar**  
Spring 2021

**Course Description**

This course is concerned with the study of meaning. More specifically, we will be interested in exploring the foundations of formal, truth-conditional semantics, covering topics such as predicate-argument structure, Davidsonian vs. Neo-Davidsonian event semantics, grammatical vs. lexical aspect and some argument structural consequences of word meaning. Given that this course is offered for students in the teacher training program (in addition to students in the BA program), we will also discuss experimental research into the second language acquisition of word meaning and the consequences that this research has for the teaching of words in the EFL classroom.

**Textbook**

Kearns, Kate. 2000. *Semantics*. New York: St. Martin's Press.

**Grading**

The final grade will be based on a midterm test and an endterm test. Grades on the midterm test will carry a weight of 40% of the final grade, whereas grades on the endterm test will carry a weight of 60%. Retake opportunities will not be available for the midterm test and the endterm test.

The grading scale in this course will be as follows:

91% - 100% - 5

81% - 90% - 4

71% - 80% - 3

61% - 70% - 2

0% - 60% - 1

Grammatical errors will also be taken into account in the calculation of the final grade on both the midterm test and the endterm test.

**Attendance**

No more than three absences are allowed, illness included.

**Weekly Syllabus**

<b>Week #</b>	<b>Class content</b>	<b>Reading assignments</b>
<b>Week 1</b>	Truth-Conditional Theories 1	pp. 1-24
<b>Week 2</b>	Truth-Conditional Theories 2	

<b>Week 3</b>	First Order Logic	pp. 25-51
<b>Week 4</b>	Events	pp.176-199
<b>Week 5</b>	Tense and Aspect	pp. 148-175
<b>Week 6</b>	<b>Midterm Test</b>	
<b>Week 7</b>	Aspectual Classes of Events 1	pp. 200-227
<b>Week 8</b>	Aspectual Classes of Events 2	
<b>Week 9</b>	Consultation week – No class	
<b>Week 10</b>	Lexical Semantics	Kardos, Éva. 2021. Lexical semantics. In Bas Aarts, April McMahon & Lars Hinrichs (Eds.), <i>The Handbook of English Linguistics</i> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition, (pp. 501-523). Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell.
<b>Week 11</b>	Review	
<b>Week 12</b>	<b>Endterm Test</b>	
<b>Week 13</b>	Semantics-syntax correspondences in SLA 1	Juffs, Alan. 1996. Semantics-syntax correspondences in second language acquisition. <i>Second Language Research</i> , 12, 177-221.
<b>Week 14</b>	Semantics-syntax correspondences in SLA 2	

### Place and Time

This course will be taught on Webex on Wednesdays (2:00-3:40 p.m.).

**Contact**

Éva Kardos

Email: [kardoseva@unideb.hu](mailto:kardoseva@unideb.hu)

Phone: 512-900/ext. 22148

Virtual office hours on Webex: Wednesday 4:00-5:00 p.m.

Thursday 1:00-2:00 p.m.