# Course: Semantics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Study programme</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>ECTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English Studies</td>
<td>2020/2021</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Department

Department of English Studies

### Level of study

- ☑ Undergraduate
- □ Graduate
- □ Integrated
- □ Postgraduate

### Type of study programme

- □ Single major
- ☑ University
- □ Professional
- □ Specialized

### Year of study

- ☑ 1.
- □ 2.
- □ 3.
- □ 4.
- □ 5.

### Semester

- ☑ Winter
- □ Summer

- ☑ I.
- □ II.
- □ III.
- □ IV.
- □ V.
- □ VI.
- □ VII.
- □ VIII.
- □ IX.
- □ X.

### Status of the course

- ☑ Compulsory
- □ Elective

- ☑ Elective course offered to students from other departments

### Teaching Competencies

- □ YES
- □ NO

### Workload

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>L</th>
<th>S</th>
<th>E</th>
<th>Internet sources for e-learning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 30 | 15 | 0 | E | ☑ YES

### Location and time of instruction

- Monday, 10-12, room 143 (lecture); Monday 12-14, room 143 (seminars)

### Language(s) in which the course is taught

- English

### Course start date

- 12 October 2020

### Course end date

- 18 January 2021

### Enrolment requirements

- Enrolment in the 5th semester of the undergraduate English Studies

---

### Course coordinator

Sanja Škifić, Ph.D., Associate Professor

- E-mail: sskific@unizd.hr

- Consultation hours: Friday, 11:00-12:00 and by appointment via e-mail

### Course instructor

Sanja Škifić, Ph.D., Associate Professor

- E-mail: sskific@unizd.hr

- Consultation hours: Friday, 11:00-12:00 and by appointment via e-mail

### Assistant/Associate

- E-mail

### Mode of teaching

- ☑ Lectures
- ☑ Seminars
- □ Exercises
- ☑ E-learning
- □ Field work
- ☑ Individual assignments
- □ Multimedia and network
- □ Laboratory
- □ Mentoring
- □ Other

### Learning outcomes

The course develops the following generic competencies:

- **a) instrumental competencies**: cognitive abilities; understanding and dealing with ideas and concepts
- **b) interpersonal competencies**: ability of critical argumentation; ability of criticism and self-criticism
- **c) systematic competencies**: individual work; ability to compare different approaches and knowledge structures, critical thinking; development of an interdisciplinary approach

**Course-specific competencies**: ability to interpret the basic linguistic units on the level of meaning; critical thinking towards traditional and contemporary theoretical frameworks within which the semantic phenomena are analyzed.

By the end of the course students will be able to:
UNIVERSITY OF ZADAR  
UNIVERSITAS STUDIORUM IADERTINA  
Form 1.3.2. Syllabus

Learning outcomes at the Programme level

- define and interpret basic semantic notions
- analyze relations between different linguistic structures (phonological, morphological and syntactic) and the semantic dimension of language
- interpret the relevance of linguistic usage and extralinguistic context in the analysis of meaning
- analyze similarities and differences between specific theoretical frameworks within which semantic phenomena are interpreted

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment criteria</th>
<th>☒ Class attendance</th>
<th>☐ Preparation for class</th>
<th>☐ Homework</th>
<th>☐ Continuous evaluation</th>
<th>☐ Research</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>☐ Practical work</td>
<td>☐ Experimental work</td>
<td>☐ Presentation</td>
<td>☐ Project</td>
<td>☒ Seminar</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☒ Test(s)</td>
<td>☐ Written exam</td>
<td>☐ Oral exam</td>
<td>☐ Other:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conditions for permission to take the exam

Class attendance (70%) and accepted seminar paper.  
Note: Seminar topics should be discussed with the teacher during office hours. Students are required to hand in the first version of the seminar paper by the beginning of 13th week of class the latest. Seminar papers (2000 – 2500 words in length) are to be written in pairs and in accordance with APA style.

Exam periods

- ☒ Winter
- ☐ Summer
- ☒ Autumn

Exam dates

1. 1 February 2021  
2. 15 February 2021  
1. 1 September 2021  
2. 15 September 2021

Course description

The aim of the course is to introduce the basic concepts and relations that emerge within a range of semantic phenomena. Students are acquainted with the traditional and contemporary theoretical frameworks within which such phenomena are analyzed. The phenomena are analyzed on the lexical, paradigmatic and syntagmatic levels. Students are acquainted with basic semantic phenomena in class and through readings of literature relevant for a particular area of research. In the seminar part and on the basis of selected readings and exercises, they are encouraged to identify and analyze the same phenomena.

Course content

Lectures:

1. Introduction to semantics as a linguistic discipline – A brief historical overview and relationship with other disciplines
2. Characteristics and types of linguistic meaning
3. Analysis of the linguistic sign (de Saussure, Ogden and Richards)
4. Reference
5. Sense relations I: Synonymy and antonymy
6. Sense relations II: Homonymy, polysemy and hyponymy
7. Mid-term test
8. Meaning of lexemes – componential analysis
9. Semantic fields
10. Metaphor and metonymy
11. Collocations and idioms
12. Cognitive semantics: categorization and prototype theory
13. Semantics and syntax; semantics and pragmatics
14. Meaning and logic
15. End-term test

Seminars:

1. Differences between speaker meaning and sentence/word meaning
2. Basic syntactic-semantic units – sentence, utterance, proposition
3. Components of word meaning – reference
4. Predicates and deixis
5. Absolute synonyms; levels of differentiation
6. Distinguishing between homonymy and polysemy
7. Mid-term test
8. Decomposition of the meaning of lexemes  
9. Types of semantic fields  
10. Traditional and cognitive approaches to metaphorical meaning  
11. Contrastive analysis of collocations and idioms  
12. Prototype theory and semantic fields  
13. Speech acts, perlocution, illocution, conversational implicatures  
14. Logic and meaning  
15. End-term test  

**Required reading**  

**Additional reading**  

**Internet sources**  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment criteria of learning outcomes</th>
<th>Final exam only</th>
<th>☒ Seminar paper and final exam/mid-term and end-term tests</th>
<th>☒ Practicable work</th>
<th>☒ other forms</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>☐ Only test/homework</td>
<td>☐ Test/homework and final exam</td>
<td>☐ Seminar paper</td>
<td>☐ Final written and oral exam</td>
<td>☐ Final written exam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☒ Seminar paper</td>
<td>☐ Final oral exam</td>
<td>☐ Final written and oral exam</td>
<td>☐ Final written exam</td>
<td>☐ Practical work and final exam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☒ Student evaluations conducted by the University</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐ Student evaluations conducted by the Department</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐ Internal evaluation of teaching</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☒ Department meetings discussing quality of teaching and results of student evaluations</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐ Other</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Calculation of final grade**  
50% mid-term test and 50% end-term test or 100% final written exam  

**Grading scale**  
- 0%-59% Failure (1)  
- 60%-69% Satisfactory (2)  
- 70%-79% Good (3)  
- 80%-89% Very good (4)  
- 90%-100% Excellent (5)  

**Course evaluation procedures**  

| ☒ Student evaluations conducted by the University | ☐ Student evaluations conducted by the Department | ☐ Internal evaluation of teaching | ☒ Department meetings discussing quality of teaching and results of student evaluations | ☐ Other |

**Note /Other**  
In accordance with Art. 6 of the *Code of Ethics* of the Committee for Ethics in Science and Higher Education, “the student is expected to fulfil his/her obligations honestly and ethically, to pursue academic excellence, to be civilized, respectful and free from prejudice.” According to Art. 14 of the University of Zadar's *Code of Ethics*, students are expected to “fulfil their responsibilities responsibly and conscientiously. […] Students are obligated to safeguard the reputation and dignity of all members of the university community and the University of Zadar as a whole, to promote moral and academic values and principles. […] Any act constituting a violation of academic honesty is ethically prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to:  
- various forms of fraud such as the use or possession of books, notes, data, electronic gadgets or other aids during examinations, except when permitted;  
- various forms of forgery such as the use or possession of unauthorised materials during the exam;
impersonation and attendance at exams on behalf of other students; fraudulent study documents; forgery of signatures and grades; falsifying exam results.”
All forms of unethical behaviour will result in a negative grade in the course without the possibility of compensation or repair. In case of serious violations the Rulebook on Disciplinary Responsibility of Students at the University of Zadar will be applied.

In electronic communications only messages coming from known addresses with a first and a last name, and which are written in the Croatian standard and appropriate academic style, will be responded to.

This course uses the Merlin system for e-learning, so students are required to have an AAI account.

Due to the epidemiological situation related to COVID-19, certain changes in the syllabus are possible.