

Identification	Subject (code, title, credits)	LING 615, Semantics and Pragmatics, 3 credits
	Department	English Language and Literature
	Program (undergraduate, graduate)	MA graduate
	Term	Fall, 2026
	Lecturer	Azad Mammadov
	E-mail:	azad.mammadov@khazar.org
	Phone:	
	Classroom/hours	4 hours
	Office hours	Monday – Friday from 8:30 to 15:00
Prerequisites	LING 612	
Language	English	
Compulsory/Elective	Compulsory	
Required textbooks and course materials	Ullman S. 1962 <i>Semantics: an introduction to the science of meaning</i>. Blackwell Lyons J. 1977 <i>Semantics</i>. Vol. 1, 2. Cambridge University Press 1977 Kreidler Ch. 2002 <i>Introducing English Semantics</i>. Routledge Riemer N. 2010 <i>Introducing Semantics</i> Cambridge University Press Hurford J. et al. <i>Semantics. A Coursebook</i> Second edition. Cambridge University Press 2007 Levinson S. 1983 <i>Pragmatics</i>. Cambridge University Press Allan K. et al. 2012 <i>The Cambridge Handbook of Pragmatics</i> Cambridge University Press Horn L. et al 2006 <i>The Handbook of Pragmatics</i> Blackwell	
Course website	-	
Course outline	This course deals with the semantic structure and pragmatics in Modern English in the light of theoretical issues in the field. It involves study of techniques for analyzing semantic and pragmatic data, justifying relevant theories or finding out gaps in them.	
Course objectives	• gain a comprehensive view of current situation, existing problems in the study of semantics and pragmatics • prepare and make presentations in collaboration with group members on specific semantic and pragmatic topics • develop a critical linguistic awareness in semantics and pragmatics	
Learning outcomes	<i>In completion of this course, the student will be able to:</i> • demonstrate critical awareness of the problems in semantics and pragmatics • analyze linguistic data and justify relevant theories	

	• research various aspects of semantics and pragmatics • formulate and test hypotheses about relevant linguistic topics		
Teaching methods	Lecture		+
	Group discussion		+
	Seminar		+
	Course paper		+
	Presentation		+
Evaluation	Methods	Date/deadlines	Percentage (%)
	Midterm Exam		35
	Activity		5
	Class Participation		5
	Language attitude Project		20
	Final Exam		35
	Total		100
Assessment	Dear MA student, in this part of the Syllabus you will find answer to such questions like HOW and FOR WHAT you are going to get your grades. Class participation and activity This course cannot be successful without your regular participation. You are expected and highly encouraged to ask questions, make comments, or disagree with what your fellow students or lecturer is saying. Following these rules, you can get 10 points (5 points for participation, and 5 points for activity). Project /Oral Reporting During the semester, you will write a research paper on a topic agreed with your lecturer and present it. The project will be at least 10 pages on printed A4 sheets (Times New Roman 12). You will be expected to provide a quick oral report of your findings. For presentation/ project you can get 20 points. All above mentioned make 30 points maximal. The rest 70 points you can get at midterm and final exams. (35 points at midterm and 35 points at final exam respectively)		
Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy	Students are permitted to use artificial intelligence (AI) tools, including generative AI applications, to support their learning, brainstorming, idea development, language improvement, and revision, unless the use of AI is explicitly restricted for a particular assignment or assessment. AI should be used as a learning support tool rather than a substitute for students' own thinking, analysis, and academic work. Students are responsible for the accuracy, originality, and academic integrity of all submitted work. Any use of AI that contributes substantially to an assignment should be appropriately acknowledged or cited, where required. Students should critically evaluate AI-generated information because such tools may produce inaccurate, incomplete, or misleading content. Students must not use AI tools to generate or complete an assignment when the instructor has explicitly prohibited their use. Submitting AI-generated content as entirely the student's own work, without appropriate acknowledgment, may be considered a violation of academic integrity. Students are also expected to comply with		

		all assignment-specific instructions regarding the acceptable and unacceptable uses of AI.	
Policy		Full-time students are expected to attend all elements of their courses unless they are sick or have permission of their School Dean. In general, to be eligible for taking exams students should not miss more than 30% of the class hours. In addition, the students are expected to be in the classroom ready to work at the appointed hour. It is the students’ responsibility to be on time, ready and attentive. Continuing and unexcused absence or lack of participation may lead to withdrawal from the course. All forms of cheating and plagiarism are strictly banned. If 25% plagiarism is found in a submitted assignment, the student gets no point for it. If the student submits the assignment later than due time, 20% of the grade for that assignment is subtracted. The student whose behavior is disruptive either to the instructor or other students will be asked to leave.	
Tentative Schedule			
Week	Date/Day (tentative)	Topics	Textbook/Assignments /Reading
1	Sep	Interactive Lecture 1: Studying Meaning • Introduction • General theory of meaning • Types of semantics • Lexical and grammatical meaning Discussion	Relevant books and scholarly papers
2	Sep	Interactive Lecture 2: Lexical semantics (traditional approach) • Internal semantic structure of words • Semantic relations within vocabulary Discussion	Relevant books and scholarly papers
3	Oct	Interactive Lecture 3: Grammatical meaning • Content and function words • Sentences Discussion	Relevant books and scholarly papers
4	Oct	Interactive Lecture 4: Reference and sense • Referring expressions • Predicates, deixis and definiteness • Sense relations Discussion	Relevant books and scholarly papers
5	Oct	Interactive Lecture 5: Cognitive semantics • Prototype theory, conceptual metaphor theory, frame semantics • Meaning construction and knowledge representation	Relevant books and scholarly papers

		Discussion	
6	Oct	Interactive Lecture 6: Figurative Language • Literal and Figurative Usage • Metaphor • Irony, Metonymy, Simile, etc. Discussion	Relevant books and scholarly papers
7	Nov	Revision of Topics 1 - 6	
8	Nov	Pre-examination Consultation Midterm Examination	
9	Nov	Interactive Lecture 7: Speech Acts • General Aspects of Speech Acts • Speech-act Dimensions • Felicity Conditions • Direct and Indirect Speech Acts Discussion	Relevant books and scholarly papers
10	Nov	Interactive Lecture 8: Cooperative Principle • Quantity • Quality • Relation • Manner Discussion	Relevant books and scholarly papers
11	Nov	Interactive Lecture 9: Relevance Theory • Cognitive approach to pragmatics • Implicature • Explicature Discussion	Relevant books and scholarly papers
12		Interactive Lecture 10: Reference	Relevant books and

	Dec	• General Aspects of Reference • Reference in the Non-linguistic Situation • Reference in a Linguistic Situation Discussion	scholarly papers
13	Dec	Interactive Lecture 11: Deixis • Person Deixis • Spatial Deixis • Temporal Deixis • Social Deixis • Discourse Deixis Discussion	Relevant books and scholarly papers
14	Dec	Interactive Lecture 12: Given-New Information, Theme-Rheme • General Aspects • The Generation of Given Information • New Information • Given-New Information, Theme-Rheme Discussion	Relevant books and scholarly papers
15	Dec	Students' Presentations of their Projects	
16	January	Final Examination	