

The Institute for Linguistics, Image and Text (LIT)

June 5 -30, 2017

Overview

Our program begins with an introduction to the study of meaning: the study of *what is said* (semantics) and *what can be inferred from what is said* (pragmatics). We will concentrate on the meaning of sentences in written and spoken language. The goal will be to develop techniques for distinguishing *what is entailed, presupposed and implicated* through our study of language employed in advertising. This will include internet-based research and language documentation projects in Northampton.

Subsequently, we will develop techniques for analyzing meaning at the discourse level (i.e. when two or more sentences are involved). We will learn a theory of discourse coherence which synthesizes research in linguistics, literature, philosophy and artificial intelligence. This part of the course will be reading intensive: we will not only read primary research, but we will also read and analyze selected poems, short stories and a novella. This part of the course will have an associated evening lecture from Polina Barskova (Associate Professor of Russian Literature at Hampshire College), who will talk to us about the Nobel Prize winning author *Ivan Bunin*, whose short story we will analyze during the program.

After completing training in meaning of written and spoken language, we will proceed to look at a graphic novel which exemplifies an intriguing connection between words and visual art. We will follow up this exploration with a class field trip to the Museum of Illustration in New York. We will also have an evening lecture from Laura Sizer (Associate Professor of Philosophy at Hampshire College), who will look at narrative in tattoo art.

The class will proceed by applying discourse coherence theory to film. This will involve watching and analyzing selected films, including one at Amherst Cinema. In the final week of the program, students will have the opportunity to present their work in a professional conference setting, in which they will create and analyze their own narrative art (involving text and image) in terms of the theory taught in the program, while applying acquired skills of effective presentation.

Faculty

Daniel Altshuler (dgaCS@hampshire.edu)

Visiting Faculty

- Polina Barskova (Hampshire College, School of Humanities, Arts and Cultural Studies)
- Laura Sizer (Hampshire College, School of Cognitive Science)

Staff

Kaden Holladay (kth12@hampshire.edu)

Required book (to be purchased prior to LIT)

- *The invention of Hugo Cabret* by Selznick
Available in paperback (\$5.99), hardcover (\$13.74), kindle (\$15.99) on Amazon.

Schedule (subject to change)

Sunday, June 4

4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. LIT welcome, introduction, ice breakers and pizza. Location TBD.

Monday, June 5

Seminar: Language and meaning (10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.)

- Defining human language
- Sapir – Whorf Hypothesis
- Aboutness

Practicum: Language documentation project: Do all sentences have a truth-value? (2 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.)

- Field trip to Northampton

Assignment: Read Chapter 1 of *A course in semantics* (available on Moodle)

Tuesday, June 6

Seminar: Introduction to semantics (10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.)

- Syntax/semantics interface
- Lexicons and set theory

Practicum: Finnish and Central Alaskan Yup'ik lexicons (2 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.)

- Group exercises

Assignment: Read Chapter 2 of *A course in semantics* (available on Moodle)

Wednesday, June 7

Seminar: Symbolic logic (10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.)

- Atomic sentences and their parts
- Connectives
- Quantifiers
- Predicate conjunction

Practicum: From English to symbolic logic and back (2 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.)

- Group exercises

Assignment: Read Chapter 1 from Chierchia & McConnell-Ginet 2000 (available on Moodle)

Thursday, June 8

Seminar: Literal versus non-literal meaning (10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.)

- Problems with translating English into symbolic logic
- Implicatures versus presuppositions versus entailment

Practicum: Analyzing different forms of address (2 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.)

- Internet based research in groups

Assignment: Read Paul Grice's *Logic and Conversation* (available on Moodle)

Friday, June 9

Seminar: Grice and advertising (10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.)

- Grice's theory of implicatures
- Application to advertising

Practicum: Language documentation project: finding advertising to analyze (2 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.)

- Field trip to Northampton

Assignment (in groups): Analyze your advertising

Sunday, June 11

Mini-conference: Advertising as propaganda (2 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.)

- Presenting your analysis in groups

Assignment: Read Chapter 1 and 2 of Hobbs 1990 (available on Moodle)

Monday, June 12

Seminar: Introduction to philosophy of literature (10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.)

- Interpretation as a function
- Author's intentions
- Imagining
- Narrative discourse

Practicum: Analyzing selections from Abbot, Carroll, Kafka and Kharms (2 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.)

- Group exercises

Assignment: Read Chapter 1 of Kehler 2002

Tuesday, June 13

Seminar: Introduction to principles of discourse coherence (10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.)

- General aims
- Coherence relations
- Constructing proofs

Practicum: Creating mini-discourses and constructing proofs (2 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.)

- Group exercises

Assignment: Reading *Sunstroke* by Bunin and summarizing in one sentence, in one paragraph, in one page. Reflection on how this is possible.

Wednesday, June 14

Seminar: Introduction to discourse structure (10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.)

- Subordination versus coordination
- Right Frontier and anaphora

Practicum: Analysis of a key passage of *Sunstroke* (2 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.)

- Group exercises

Group Assignment: Segmenting key passages from *Sunstroke* and global analysis

Evening lecture: Polina Barskova on Ivan Bunin and *Sunstroke* (7p.m.-8:30p.m.)

Thursday, June 15

Mini-conference: Global analysis (10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.)

- Presenting your global analysis in groups

Practicum: Analyze “You fit into me” by Atwood and “Falling old ladies” by Kharms (2 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.)

- Group exercises

Assignment: Read *Sylvie* by Nerval, and segment into 4-8 core discourse units.

Friday, June 16

Seminar: Analysis of *Sylvie* (10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.)

- Segmenting a larger text
- Discourse structure of a larger text

Practicum: Discussing the temporal structure of *Sylvie*: what happens when? (2 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.)

- Group exercises

Assignment 1: Create and argue for a timeline of *Sylvie*

Assignment 2: Read *The invention of Hugo Cabret* by Selznick

Monday, June 19

Seminar: Discussion of *Hugo Cabret* (10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.)

Practicum: Segmenting and beginning to analyze *Hugo Cabret* (2 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.)

- Group exercises

Assignment (in groups): Provide your sketch of an analysis of *Hugo Cabret*

Tuesday, June 20

Mini-conference: Analyzing *Hugo Cabret* (10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.)

- Presenting your analysis sketch in groups.

Assignment: Write up your analysis of *Hugo Cabret*

Evening lecture: Laura Sizer on narrative in tattoo art (7p.m.-8:30p.m.)

Wednesday, June 21

Field trip to the Museum of Illustration in NYC.

Thursday, June 22

Seminar: Discussion of a selection of *The Godfather* (10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.)

Practicum: Watching *Memento* followed by discussion (2 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.)

- Location TBA

Assignment (in groups): Creating a timeline of *Memento*

Friday, June 23

Mini-conference: Film as a narrative discourse (10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.)

- Presenting your timeline in groups.

Practicum: Watching *Inland Empire* followed by discussion (2 p.m. - 6 p.m.)

- Location TBA

Assignment: Creating an analysis sketch.

Sunday, June 25

Fieldtrip to Amherst Cinema (details TBA)

Monday, June 26

Seminar: Discussing final project (10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m)

Practicum: Final project planning (2 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.)

- Group exercises

Assignment: Research statement

Tuesday, June 27

Mini-conference: Presenting research statements (10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.)

Practicum: Work on final project (2 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.)

- Group exercises

Assignment: Revised research statement

Wednesday, June 28

Practicum: Work on final project (All Day)

Thursday, June 29

Practicum: Work on final project (All Day)

Friday, June 30

Professional conference (10am-5pm)