

## Course Syllabus

1	Course title	English Semantics
2	Course number	2201324
3	Credit hours (theory, practical)	3
	Contact hours (theory, practical)	(2, 1)
4	Prerequisites/corequisites	2201224 English Linguistics
5	Program title	Bachelor's in English Language and Literature
6	Program code	2207
7	Awarding institution	The University of Jordan
8	School	Faculty of Foreign Languages
9	Department	Dept. of English Language and Literature
10	Level of course	2 <sup>nd</sup> year
11	Year of study and semester (s)	2 <sup>nd</sup>
12	Final Qualification	Passing Grade
13	Other department (s) involved in teaching the course	None
14	Language of Instruction	English
15	Date of production/revision	15/1/2019

### 16. Course Coordinator:

Dr. Nimer Abusalim  
[nimerabusolim@gmail.com](mailto:nimerabusolim@gmail.com)  
[n.abusalim@ju.edu.jo](mailto:n.abusalim@ju.edu.jo)  
 Office Location: Linguistics Dept.  
 Office Hours: Sunday and Tuesday 11:00-1:00

### 17. Other instructors:

None

### 18. Course Description:

#### Department Approved Course Description:

Acquainting the students with the major concepts of English semantics such as sense, meaning, lexical relations, sentential relations, componential analysis, and semantic theory. Concepts like deep structure and semantic representations of sentence meaning, ambiguity, as well as the logic of natural languages are emphasized in this course

**Semester Specific Course Description:**

This course introduces students to the science of meaning in language. It focuses on how meaning is arrived at in natural languages. Main topics include meaning in relation to grammar, sense and reference relations, entailment, semantic ambiguity, and propositional logic.

This course also offers students a modern and cutting-edge method of learning, through the Blended Learning program. With blended-learning, students are given the opportunity to learn by themselves via a partly online designed course syllabus, where part of the required course hours are done by the student at home via the internet, instead of physically coming to class. This not only gives students more time to interact and collaborate with other students (through online discussion forums and meetings outside class), but also helps students discover their own personalized learning style.

**19. Course aims and outcomes:****A- Aims:**

This course aims to encourage students to:

- Familiarize students with the basic concepts in semantics
- Introduce them to the complexity of meaning
- Introduce them to the interrelatedness of linguistics, philosophy, and cognition.

**B- Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs):** Upon successful completion of this course students will be able to

- Demonstrate sound understanding of the basic concepts of semantics through:
  - Identifying various types of sense relations and reference relations
  - Identifying and describing concepts of lexical relations and derivational relations
  - Differentiating between semantic ambiguity, structural (syntactic) ambiguity and vagueness
  - Demonstrating understanding of concepts of entailment and presupposition
  - Distinguishing the difference between utterances, sentences and propositions
- Recognize and list strengths and weaknesses of different theories of word meaning (Frame/Script theories, Semantic Networks, etc.)
- Apply knowledge of logic in meaning
- Discover how context may affect sentence-level analysis and evaluate the limitations of a sentence-bound analysis.
- Develop awareness of the usefulness of pragmatics and conversational theories of meaning in making up for the limitations of a sentence-bound semantic theory.

**20. Topic Outline and Schedule:**

Week	Topic	Schedule		Assignments (Done by every Sunday BEFORE class)
		Day	Resources	
1	Introduction to Blended Learning	Sun	Orientation	
		Tue	Registering and Creating a <i>moodle</i> account. Reading the Blended Learning 'How to' Guide	As posted on Moodle by every Tuesday.  Elearning.ju.edu.jo
2	Locating Semantics in Linguistics + What is a science of meaning?	Thu	Watch Semantics-1+2	As posted on Moodle by every Tuesday.  Elearning.ju.edu.jo
		Sun	Class Discussion	
		Tue	Instructor Prepared PPT	
3	A Theory of Semantics + The Principle of Compositionality	Thu	Watch Semantics-3+4+5	As posted on Moodle by every Tuesday.  Elearning.ju.edu.jo
		Sun	Class Discussion	
		Tue	Instructor Prepared PPT	
4	Levels of Abstraction	Thu	Watch Semantics-6+7	As posted on Moodle by every Tuesday.  Elearning.ju.edu.jo
		Sun	Class Discussion + Review HW	
		Tue	Instructor Prepared PPT	
5	Levels of Semantic Analysis + Sense, Reference, and Denotation + Theories of Word Meaning	Thu	Watch Semantics-8+9	As posted on Moodle by every Tuesday.  Elearning.ju.edu.jo
		Sun	Class Discussion	
		Tue	Instructor Prepared PPT	

6	Theories of Concepts	Thu	Watch Semantics - 10+11	As posted on Moodle by every Tuesday.  Elearning.ju.edu.jo
		Sun	Class Discussion	
		Tue	Instructor Prepared PPT	
7	Universalism and Relativism + Types of Reference	Thu	Watch Semantics - 12+13	As posted on Moodle by every Tuesday.  Elearning.ju.edu.jo
		Sun	Class Discussion	
		Tue	Instructor Prepared PPT	
8	Mid-term Exam + Review of Exam			
9	Theories of Proper Names + Theories of Definite Descriptions	Thu	Watch Semantics - 14+15	As posted on Moodle by every Tuesday.  Elearning.ju.edu.jo
		Sun	Class Discussion	
		Tue	Instructor Prepared PPT	
10	Sense Relations (1)	Thu	Watch Semantics - 16+17	As posted on Moodle by every Tuesday.  Elearning.ju.edu.jo
		Sun	Class Discussion	
		Tue	Instructor Prepared PPT	
11	Sense Relations (2)	Thu	Watch Semantics - 18+19	As posted on Moodle by every Tuesday.  Elearning.ju.edu.jo
		Sun	Class Discussion	
		Tue	Instructor Prepared PPT	
12	Ambiguity vs Vagueness	Thu	Watch Semantics - 20+21	As posted on Moodle by every Tuesday.  Elearning.ju.edu.jo
		Sun	Class Discussion	
		Tue	Instructor Prepared PPT	
13	Thematic Relations	Thu	Watch Semantics - 22	As posted on Moodle by every Tuesday.

				Elearning.ju.edu.jo
		Sun	Class Discussion	
		Tue	Instructor Prepared PPT	
14	Sentence Relations	Thu	Watch Semantics - 23+24	As posted on Moodle by every Tuesday.  Elearning.ju.edu.jo
		Sun	Class Discussion	
		Tue		
15	Semester Review	Thu		
		Sun		
		Tue		
16	Final Exam			

### 21. Teaching Methods and Assignments:

Development of ILOs is promoted through the following teaching and learning methods:

- Blended Learning

### 22. Evaluation Methods and Course Requirements:

Opportunities to demonstrate achievement of the ILOs are provided through the following assessment methods and requirements:

- Submission of weekly online assignments
- Participation in online discussion forum
- Exams
  - Midterm Exam
  - Final Exam

### 23. Course Policies:

- A- This course is designed to be two-thirds class meetings and one-third online learning. This

means that you are expected to attend class at the university every Sunday and Tuesday. You are also expected to participate in online discussions, collaborate and work with your fellow students, and prepare and complete any assigned homework.

- You are expected to be in class on time. Students coming late are allowed to enter but will be marked absent on attendance sheet. The same applies to leaving class early. **No exceptions.**
- Participation and students' involvement are crucial to the success of the course. All students are expected to have read the assigned materials before coming to class in order to fully engage in the discussions. In addition to in-class discussions, students are encouraged to post their comments and questions **on E-Learning (Moodle) which can be accessed at <http://elearning.ju.edu.jo/>.**
- The University allows students to be absent **seven** times during the semester. However, in a BL course like this one, you are allowed a maximum of **THREE** excused absences. The only excuse that would remove your absence from your record is in case of a conflict with another course (a scheduled written exam). If you exceed this limit, you will not be allowed to sit for the final exam.

**No make-up exams.** In case of sickness, only reports issued directly from a public clinic or hospital will be accepted. Medical reports from private practiced doctors or private hospitals will not be accepted even if they are stamped by the university's clinic. Reports should be produced within a week of the date of the exam. **No exceptions.**

#### 24. Required equipment: ( Facilities, Tools, Labs, Training,...)

Classroom with projector, one computer, and an internet connection.

#### 25. References:

Required book (s), assigned reading and audio-visuals:

- Online and Multimedia:
  - Youtube.com – Dr. Nimer Abusalim – Semantics Playlist
- Textbook: Hurfor, J.R., Heasley, B., & Smith, M. B. (2007). *Semantics: a Coursebook*. Cambridge University Press.

Recommended books, materials, and media:

- Cruse, A. (2011). *Meaning in language: An introduction to semantics and pragmatics*.
- [www.Linguistics-Online.com](http://www.Linguistics-Online.com)
- The Virtual Linguistics Campus (Youtube)  
<https://www.youtube.com/user.LinguisticsMarburg>

#### 26. Additional information:

**Course Assessment:**

- **Online Assessment (30)**

**Note: You start the course with 30/30. Do your best to keep this grade. You lose points only if you fall short in one of the following:**

- Leading a forum discussion (5)
  - You will be required to start and follow up on one forum discussion throughout the semester. You will post critical questions on the discussion forum, reply to other students' posts, and present a 5-minute summary of students' replies during the next class.
- Online participation (5)
  - You are expected to be very active on the online discussion forums. For each discussion that you submit original and meaningful post/replies to the forum you will receive a grade out of 5. At the end of the semester these grades are averaged out of 5.
- Assignments (20)
  - For each completed assignment you will receive a grade out of 20. Your final assignments grade is taken as an average at the end of the semester for a total of 20 points. *(Note: Your grade is not based on whether you answer right or wrong, but rather on how honest an effort you put into the assignment)*

- **In-Class Assessment (70)**

- Mid-term Exam (30)
- Final Exam (40)
  - Part of the Final exam material will be from the course material.
  - Some exam questions may be taken from within the discussion forums throughout the semester.

Name of Course Coordinator: -----Nimer Abusalim-----Signature: ----- Date: -----  
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Head of curriculum committee/Department: ----- Signature: -----

Head of Department: ----- Signature: -----

Head of curriculum committee/Faculty: ----- Signature: -----

Dean: ----- -Signature: -----