

PRAGMATICS

Spring 2024

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Class time: Wednesday, 10:10~13:10

Office: HSS-B505

Office hours: Thursday, 10:30~11:30, 15:30~16:30; by appointment

Course Description

When do you use “that” instead of “this”? Why do we know “can you pass the salt” is not really a question and “I pronounce you man and wife” not just a statement? Does adding “please” to your utterance always make it sound more polite? Why shouldn’t you express agreement when your boy/girlfriend says they look fat? Why do we sometimes have problems communicating with people from a different culture even when we’re speaking the same language? We will try to address those questions and many others in this course.

This course, primarily conducted in English, introduces the basic theories and approaches in the field of pragmatics and explores pragmatic phenomena in various forms of language and realms of life. We will learn about important theoretical constructs of pragmatics, such as implicature, speech acts and politeness, and find out how these concepts are realized in different linguistic and cultural contexts. We will also discuss how pragmatics research can be conducted and how one’s pragmatic competence is developed.

By the end of this course, students are expected to be able to

- (1) define and describe important concepts in pragmatics;
- (2) explore and explain pragmatic phenomena based on the theoretical frameworks discussed;
- (3) analyze and account for data using the research methods taught in class; and
- (4) conduct a pragmatics research project and present the findings in an appropriate style.

Grading

1. Attendance and Participation 20%

Students are expected to attend punctually, and participate actively in, each class meeting. Only three absences are allowed throughout the semester.

2. Quizzes 15%

Three scheduled quizzes will be administered in class, each containing 10 true-or-false/multiple-choice question items related to the topics discussed in the previous weeks. Make-up tests are allowed.

3. Observation Journals 20%

Students are required to pay attention to pragmatic phenomena that happen in their lives and write two journals to describe them. The content can be about a joke they heard, a YouTube video they

watched, or a conversation they had with their friends. In addition to describing the phenomenon, students also need to identify how it is related to the topics discussed in this course.

4. Group Presentation 15%

Each group will choose one of the topics listed in the schedule and has to summarize and present the content of the assigned reading to the entire class.

5. Final Project 25%

The final project can be a preliminary pragmatics research project or a lesson plan for teaching pragmatics in a language class. For this project, which can be conducted individually or in groups, students have to make an oral presentation and submit a short written report.

6. Self-evaluation 5%

Students will be filling out a self-evaluation survey at the end of this semester. They will be asked to answer a number of questions related to their own performance in this class and give themselves a score.

Textbooks and Readings

1. Birner, B. J. (2013). *Introduction to Pragmatics*. Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell.
2. Cummins, C. (2019). *Pragmatics*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press.
3. LoCastro, V. (2013). *Pragmatics for Language Educators: A Sociolinguistic Perspective*. London: Routledge.
4. O’Keeffe, A., Clancy, B., & Adolphs, S. (2020). *Introducing Pragmatics in Use*. (2nd Edition). New York, NY: Routledge.
5. Ren, W. (2022). *Second Language Pragmatics*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
6. Strauss, S. & Feiz, P. (2013). *Discourse Analysis: Putting Our World into Words*. New York, NY: Routledge.
7. Other assigned articles

Tentative Schedule

Week	Date	Topic(s)	Activities and Assignments
W1	02/21	Course Orientation	
W2	02/28	228 Peace Memorial Day (No Class)	
W3	03/06	What Is Pragmatics? (C-Ch1)	
W4	03/13	Reference (O-Ch4)	
W5	03/30	Presupposition (B-Ch5)	
W6	03/27	Implicature (C-Ch3)	Quiz 1
W7	04/03	Intercollegiate Activities (No Class)	Observation Journal 1 Video-watching

W8	04/10	Speech Acts (C-Ch8)	Group 1 Presentation
W9	04/17	Politeness (L-Ch6)	Group 2 Presentation
W10	04/24	Conversation Analysis (S-Ch6)	Group 3 Presentation
W11	05/01	Doing Pragmatics Projects (O-Ch2)	Quiz 2 Final Project Discussion 1
W12	05/08	Cross-cultural Pragmatics (L-Ch4)	Group 4 Presentation
W13	05/15	Teaching and Learning Pragmatics (R-Ch1~3)	Group 5 Presentation
W14	05/22	Review and Wrap-up	Observation Journal 2 Quiz 3 Final Project Discussion 2
W15	05/29	Final Presentation 1	
W16	06/05	Final Presentation 2	Self-evaluation Written Report

About Cheating and Plagiarism

1. Cheating and plagiarism are not allowed under any circumstances. Students will be facing serious consequences if caught cheating or plagiarizing.
2. If you are using the words, data and/or ideas from other sources, you need to identify where the materials come from and whether they are being quoted verbatim.
3. If you are not sure whether you may be plagiarizing, you can simply ask the teacher or check out this webpage for more information: <https://www.onlinecolleges.net/for-students/avoid-plagiarism/>.
4. Although the final results are important, integrity and true learning matter even more. If you have any difficulty about the quizzes or assignments, always feel free to bring it up to the teacher.

About the Use of Generative AI

1. Reasonable and responsible use of Generative AI such as ChatGPT is allowed or even encouraged in this class.
2. Generative AI can be used for brainstorming, language editing, or even as the topic for research. However, it should not be utilized to carry out the main analysis or to draw conclusions, let alone to create an entire document all by itself.
3. If any Generative AI is used during the process of completing an assignment or a report, it should be disclosed and identified in the document in a footnote or endnote. Failing to do so will lead to serious consequences for the author(s), if discovered.
4. If you are not sure whether if you are using Generative AI for this class appropriately, the best way is to ask the teacher directly.