

# LING 5035

## Introduction to Pragmatics

T&H, 10:45AM-12:05PM

[WEB 1248](#)

Pragmatics is the study of meaning in context. This course examines how language senders and receivers jointly construct meaning out of an utterance. Key aspects include determining which aspects of meaning are explicit (i.e., semantic) and which are implicit (i.e., pragmatic), investigating how context both constructs and is constructed by discourse, and exploring the role of intentions in conveying meaning. This course surveys the main topics of pragmatics: the semantics/pragmatics boundary, implicature, reference, presupposition, speech acts, dynamic semantics, and information structure, inter alia.

Randall Eggert

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Office Hours: T&H 1:00-2:30

If these office hours are not convenient for you, feel free to make an appointment with me either by asking after class or via e-mail (leaving phone messages is not a reliable way to reach me).

### Goals and Objectives

By the end of the semester you should be familiar with the major concepts and theories of pragmatics and be able to apply them to new data.

### Expectations for Students

Class attendance is required and I expect you to arrive on time for class. You are responsible for any material covered in class, including lectures, handouts, and group work. You should complete readings before the first day of the units they're assigned to. I will take attendance every day and you will only be excused from class for good reason. If, by some unfortunate circumstance, you do miss a lecture, make sure you do the homework and reading, borrow notes from a reliable classmate, and then come to talk to me as soon as you can. Your grade in this course will be determined by the

quality of your participation in the course, both in class and online; leading one class discussion; giving a class presentation; and handing in a final paper.

All students are expected to maintain professional behavior in the classroom setting, according to the [Student Code](#), spelled out in the Student Handbook. Students have specific rights in the classroom as detailed in Article III of the Code. The Code also specifies proscribed conduct (Article XI) that involves cheating on tests, plagiarism, and/or collusion, as well as fraud, theft, etc. Students should read the Code carefully and know they are responsible for the content. According to Faculty Rules and Regulations, it is the faculty responsibility to enforce responsible classroom behaviors, and I will do so, beginning with verbal warnings and progressing to dismissal from class and a failing grade. Students have the right to appeal such action to the Student Behavior Committee.

### Grading

Your grade will be based on class participation (20%), online discussions (20%), leading one class discussion (15%), a class presentation (20%), and a final paper (25%). There will be no incompletes, except in the case of a severe illness, a death in the family, or a catastrophic act of nature or nation. In all cases, I expect a letter explaining the situation. Unless you make special arrangements with me to receive an incomplete, I will not give one. Special arrangements should be in the form of a statement that we write up and sign.

### [University Grading Policy](#)

### Equal Access

The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in the class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability Services, 162 Union Building, 581-5020 (V/TDD). CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations.

### Canvas

We will be using Canvas extensively. Please visit our site frequently. You can access it through CIS or through [utah.instructure.com](http://utah.instructure.com).

### Required Textbook:

Birner, Betty. 2016. *Introduction to Pragmatics*. Wiley-Blackwell.

You should read the relevant chapter before we begin the unit.

Optional Readings:

For most units, I've provided links on Canvas for related articles. (You can access them through Modules).

Class discussions:

We will discuss the readings for each unit in class. You will be assigned to lead one of these discussions.

Online Discussions:

Beyond the readings, your homework assignment for each unit will be to contribute to an online discussion. The discussions are all related thematically (AI and pragmatics), and you are encouraged to pick up on threads begun in previous discussions. Your grades on discussions will be based on the quantity and quality of your contributions.

Class Presentation:

During the last weeks of classes you will give a class presentation in which you will apply one or more of the theories we've discussed during the semester to analyze some linguistic phenomenon.

Final Paper:

Your paper will be a write-up of your class presentation.

## Course Summary:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Details</b>	
Tue Aug 22, 2017	<b>Defining Pragmatics</b>	10:45am to 12:05pm
Thu Aug 24, 2017	<b>Defining Pragmatics</b>	10:45am to 12:05pm
	<b>Read Chapter 1</b>	due by 10:45am

<b>Date</b>	<b>Details</b>	
Tue Aug 29, 2017	Defining Pragmatics	10:45am to 12:05pm
Thu Aug 31, 2017	Defining Pragmatics	10:45am to 12:05pm
	Pragmatics and AI: Intro	due by 11:59pm
Fri Sep 1, 2017	Last Day to Add/Drop Classes	
Mon Sep 4, 2017	Labor Day	
Tue Sep 5, 2017	Implicature I	10:45am to 12:05pm
	Read Chapter 2	due by 10:45am
Thu Sep 7, 2017	Implicature I	10:45am to 12:05pm
	Pragmatics and AI: Implicature I	due by 11:59pm
Tue Sep 12, 2017	Implicature II	10:45am to 12:05pm
	Read Chapter 3	due by 10:45am
Thu Sep 14, 2017	Implicature II	10:45am to 12:05pm
	Pragmatics and AI: Implicature II	due by 11:59pm
Tue Sep 19, 2017	Reference	10:45am to 12:05pm
	Read Chapter 4	due by 10:45am
Thu Sep 21, 2017	Reference	10:45am to 12:05pm
Tue Sep 26, 2017	Reference	10:45am to 12:05pm
Thu Sep 28, 2017	Reference	10:45am to 12:05pm
	Pragmatics and AI: Reference	due by 11:59pm

<b>Date</b>	<b>Details</b>	
Tue Oct 3, 2017	Presupposition	10:45am to 12:05pm
	Read Chapter 5	due by 10:45am
Thu Oct 5, 2017	Presupposition	10:45am to 12:05pm
	Pragmatics and AI: Presupposition	due by 11:59pm
Mon Oct 9, 2017	Fall Break	
Tue Oct 10, 2017	Fall Break	
Wed Oct 11, 2017	Fall Break	
Thu Oct 12, 2017	Fall Break	
Fri Oct 13, 2017	Fall Break	
Tue Oct 17, 2017	Speech Acts	10:45am to 12:05pm
	Read Chapter 6	due by 10:45am
Thu Oct 19, 2017	Speech Acts	10:45am to 12:05pm
Tue Oct 24, 2017	Speech Acts	10:45am to 12:05pm
Thu Oct 26, 2017	Speech Acts	10:45am to 12:05pm
	Pragmatics and AI: Speech Acts	due by 11:59pm
Tue Oct 31, 2017	Information Structure	10:45am to 12:05pm
	Read Chapter 7	due by 10:45am
Thu Nov 2, 2017	Information Structure	10:45am to 12:05pm
	Pragmatics and AI: Information Structure	due by 11:59pm

<b>Date</b>	<b>Details</b>	
Tue Nov 7, 2017	Inferential Relations	10:45am to 12:05pm
Thu Nov 9, 2017	Inferential Relations	10:45am to 12:05pm
	Pragmatics and AI: Inferential Relations	due by 11:59pm
Tue Nov 14, 2017	Dynamic Semantics and the Representation of Discourse	10:45am to 12:05pm
	Read Chapter 9	due by 10:45am
Thu Nov 16, 2017	Dynamic Semantics and the Representation of Discourse	10:45am to 12:05pm
Tue Nov 21, 2017	Dynamic Semantics and the Representation of Discourse	10:45am to 12:05pm
	Pragmatics and AI: Dynamic Semantics and the Representation of Discourse	due by 11:59pm
Thu Nov 23, 2017	Thanksgiving Break	
Fri Nov 24, 2017	Thanksgiving Break	
Tue Nov 28, 2017	Wrap up	10:45am to 12:05pm
	Read Chapter 10	due by 10:45am
Thu Nov 30, 2017	Of Bots and Grice, Austin, and Turing	10:45am to 12:05pm
Tue Dec 5, 2017	Of Bots and Grice, Austin, and Turing	10:45am to 12:05pm
Thu Dec 7, 2017	Of Bots and Grice, Austin, and Turing	10:45am to 12:05pm
	Pragmatics and AI: Coda	due by 11:59pm
Fri Dec 8, 2017	Reading Day	

**Date****Details**

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Final Required Reading

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Information Structure

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Read Chapter 8

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