

Instructor: James Shaw
E-mail: James.A.R.Shaw@gmail.com
Office Hours: Monday 10am-12pm

DYNAMICS SEMANTICS

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will introduce dynamic semantics. Very roughly, this is an approach to semantics on which meanings are identified with incremental changes to a body of information. This is meant to contrast with, or perhaps generalize, 'static' approaches on which meanings are supplied by referents, concepts, or truth-conditions. Our eventual aim is to ask foundational questions about dynamic theories. What makes a theory dynamic, and not static? What kind of evidence could there be for a distinctively dynamic (or static) theory? Though clarifying these foundational questions will be our aim, we will keep them grounded through a number of case studies drawn from anaphora, presupposition, and epistemic modality.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

Homework: I may sometimes give one or two small problems in one class to work on at home for the next one. Trying to complete these is required for course credit.

Papers: You have two options.

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| (A) Two short papers (8-10pp., 40% each) | Due: Fri Oct. 27th, Thu. Dec. 14th |
| (B) One long paper (16-20pp. 80%) | Due: Thu. Dec. 14th |

Participation (20%): Every student taking the course for credit is expected to speak at least once per class.

TEXTS

Readings are here:

www.jshaw.net/courses/core.html

You will need a user name and password to access some of the readings. You should have received that information by e-mail if you are signed up for the course. If you haven't, or have lost it, e-mail me to get it.

SCHEDULE OF TOPICS AND READINGS

Starred readings are required. The schedule is subject to change.

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| Aug. 28 | Introduction |
| Sep. 11 | "Dynamic Pragmatics"
*Stalnaker, "Assertion"
*Lewis, "Scorekeeping in a Language Game" |

- Sep. 18 **File Change Semantics**
 *Heim, “File Change Semantics”
 Kadmon, *Formal Pragmatics*, Ch. 2.0-2.1.2, 2.1.4
 Karttunen, “Discourse Referents”
- Sep.25 **Discourse Representation Theory**
 *Kamp, “A Theory of Discourse and Semantic Representation”
 Kadmon, *Formal Pragmatics*, Ch. 2.1.3, 2.2
- Oct. 2 **Dynamic Predicate Logic**
 *Groenendijk & Stokhof, “Dynamic Predicate Logic”
 skipping; §3.3, §3.4 after def.17, §3.5 after fact 12, §4.1, §4.3
 Groenendijk & Stokhof, “Dynamic Predicate Logic” (the rest)
- Oct. 10 **More on Anaphora: E-Type Pronouns**
 *Heim, “E-Type Pronouns and Donkey Anaphora”
- Oct. 16 **Modal Subordination**
 *Roberts, “Modal Subordination and Pronominal
 Anaphora in Discourse”
- Oct. 23
 (NB: Tuesday!) **Presupposition I: Presupposition Projection**
 *Stalnaker, “Presuppositions”
 *Stalnaker, “Pragmatic Presuppositions”
 *Heim, “On the Projection Problem for Presuppositions”
- Oct. 30 **Presupposition II: Anaphora and Accommodation**
 *van der Sandt, “Presupposition Projection as Anaphora
 Resolution”
- Nov. 6 **Epistemic Modals I**
 *Yalcin, “Epistemic Modals”
 Veltman, “Defaults in Update Semantics”
- Nov. 13 **Epistemic Modals II**
 *Yalcin, “Epistemic Modality *De Re*”
- Nov. 20 **Formal Properties of Dynamic Systems**
 *Rothschild and Yalcin, “On the Dynamics of Conversation”
- Nov. 27 **Notions of Dynamics**
 *Rothschild and Yalcin, “Three Notions of Dynamicness
 in Language”
- Dec. 4 **Skepticism**
 *Lewis, “Do We Need Dynamic Semantics?”