

# Plan for the rest of the course

Introduction to Pragmatics, Fall 2010

## Schedule

Theme	Date	Time	Room	Reading
Deixis	Fri., Dec. 10	11-13	H405	<b>Project idea</b> (email Liz by Thurs, Dec. 16)
Indexicality/ Expressives	Thurs., Dec. 16	11-13	H405	Kaplan [video]: The meaning of “oops” and “ouch” (due Monday, Dec. 20)
Presentations	Fri., Jan. 14	15-17	H339	Special project (due Monday, Jan. 18)

## Some possible project topics

**Implicature:** Relevance theory: Reducing Grice to a single maxim, ‘Be relevant’

**Presupposition:** Newer approaches to the projection problem, at-issue vs. non-at-issue, presuppositions of particular words

**Deixis/Indexicals:** How is it possible to say *I am not here now?*, the ‘theory of mind’ theory of *you* and *I*, the semantics of particular deictic expressions, the time/space system of various languages

**Reference and definite descriptions:** The two readings of *Smith’s murderer is insane*.

**Deferred interpretation:** *The ham sandwich is getting impatient*

**Definiteness and indefiniteness:** There is *a/\*the book* on the table.

**Speech acts:** Making requests vs. giving commands vs. describing the world

**Indirect speech acts:** *Can you pass the salt?*

**Politeness:** Positive face and negative face, etc.

**Discourse coherence:** Narration, elaboration, result, etc.

**Discourse markers:** *Well, however, so, indeed, as a result*, etc.

**Conversation analysis:** Turn-taking, preferred vs. dispreferred responses, greetings, closings, etc.

**Deixis and presuppositions:** Do deictic expressions have presuppositional content, and does that content project like a normal presupposition?

**Topic/focus:** What happened to Bill? A: *#Bill* got shot. A’: Bill got *shot*.

**Pragmatics and language acquisition:** Joint attention, common ground, contrast, speaker intention in the language acquisition process

**Historical pragmatics:** How *going to* becomes a future marker in English (and *komma att* in Swedish?)

## Some possible types of projects

- Read a paper and make up and answer comprehension questions about it. Identify the most important concepts and points, and find ways to make sure the reader understands.
- Take a paper about English and translate all the examples into another language and see if the conclusions still hold (for example, Fillmore's *Coming and Going*).
- Pick a word that can only be used in certain discourse contexts, and figure out what the constraints on its usage are.
- Analyze the pragmatics of a scene in a novel or a movie – what Gricean maxims are being violated, what presuppositions are being accommodated, etc.
- Write a critical response to something we have read or something else, like “Kaplan argues that  $P$ , based on observation  $O$ , but I don't think that observation  $O$  is right, and here is some evidence. This means that  $P$  is wrong, or at least, there's no argument for  $P$ . (I propose  $Q$  instead.)”