UNIVERSITY OF GOTHENBURG

FACULTY OF ARTS

LI1420, Dynamic semantics, 7,5 higher education credits
Dynamisk semantik, 7.5 högskolepoäng

First Cycle

1. Confirmation

The course syllabus was confirmed by Department of Philosophy, Linguistics and Theory of Science on 2012-09-28 and was last revised by Department of Philosophy, Linguistics and Theory of Science on 2013-05-23 to be valid from 2013-09-01.

Field of education: Arts 100 %

Department: Department of Philosophy, Linguistics and Theory of Science

2. Position in the educational system

Main field of studies	*Specialization*
Linguistics	G2F, First Cycle, has at least 60 credits in first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

3. Entry requirements

4. Course content

This course is about "dynamic semantics", where the meaning of a sentence is a function that updates the context, rather than a description of the world. Why should we believe in this? In this course we will cover the two most important empirical motivations:

1. "Donkey sentences" like "If Pedro owns a donkey then he likes it"
2. The projection problem for presuppositions: When the presuppositions of a complex sentence are presuppositions of its parts.

5. Learning outcomes

By the end of the course it is expected that students can:

Knowledge and Understanding

•Explain why it is hard to analyze donkey sentences in static semantic theories

- Explain how donkey sentences can be analyzed in dynamic theories, including File Change Semantics and Discourse Representation Theory
- Explain the advantages of dynamic semantics when it comes to the projection problem for presuppositions

Practical Skills

- Distinguish between different types of semantic content, including presuppositions, entailments, and implicatures
- Analyse simple sentences in Discourse Representation Theory

Analytical Skills

- Choose between various theories of definite and indefinite descriptions, pronouns, and presuppositions
- Criticize analyses and identify research questions

6. Literature

Litteratur till kursen kommer att fastställas åtta veckor före kursstart.

7. Assessment

Teaching will be in the form of lectures, reading comprehension exercises, and data analysis exercises. The grade will be determined based on the exercises.

8. Grading scale

The grading scale comprises Fail (U), Pass (G), Pass with Distinction (VG).

9. Course evaluation

10. Additional information

Language of instruction: English and Swedish.

The literature and the readings are in English, but students are welcome to pose questions and write in Swedish.