The course offers a first introduction to semantics and pragmatics, the study of meaning in natural language. It introduces the basic tools and concepts that semanticists use to analyze meaning (set theory, relations, functions, phrase-structure rules and compositional semantic interpretation, statement logic and predicate logic, speech acts, implicature, presupposition, type theory and lambda abstraction). We will try out these tools on a number of semantic and pragmatic phenomena, like the composition of meaning of simple sentences, quantifiers and their scope, variable binding, the computation of implicatures, and presupposition projection. We will also discuss ways to relate syntactic structure to semantic interpretation which allow us to deal with the phenomenon of scope ambiguities.

**Required Textbook:**

**Reference Textbooks:**
The following textbooks provide further detail and alternate points of views.


**Requirements:** Grading will based on: class attendance and participation (10%), homework exercises (40%, approximately one a week), a midterm exam (20%), and a final exam (30%).
Topics

- Background: Sets and Functions, the $\lambda$-calculus
- Syntactic Structure and Semantic Interpretation
- Background: Statement Logic
- Predicates, Modifiers, Definite NPs, Type Theory
- Quantifiers in Natural Language
- Relative clauses, Variables, Variable Binding
- Quantification and Grammar: Constraints on Quantifier Movement
- Bound and Referential Pronouns and Ellipsis
- Syntactic Structure and Semantic Scope
- Speech Acts
- Implicature
- Presupposition
- Indexicality
- Vagueness