"Take some more tea," the March Hare said to Alice, very earnestly.
"I've had nothing yet," Alice replied in an offended tone: "so I can't take more."
"You mean you can't take less," said the Hatter: "it's very easy to take more than nothing."

The Tenniel Illustrations for Alice In Wonderland Created by Geof Pawlicki & Jim Chamings

Course Description

What's wrong with the Mad Hatter?
This and other crucial questions will be raised (and some even answered!) in this course on language meaning in context. We'll be exploring how sentences are put together into texts and conversations, how speakers and hearers exploit each other's expectations and cooperate (or fail to cooperate) in the process of communication, and how speakers of different languages manage their conversations.

Prerequisites and university requirements
The course has Ling 100: Introduction to Linguistics as a prerequisite and satisfies the Oral Communication and the Digital Literacy requirements.

The learning goals in this course are to:
• develop an understanding of basic concepts in the study of contextual or non-literal linguistic meaning, such as conversational implicature, presupposition, conventional implicature, deixis, direct and indirect speech acts.
• apply this understanding to analysis of naturally-occurring linguistic data (text or speech)
• learn to effectively communicate orally, including presenting prepared remarks, extracting relevant examples from prepared material, and impromptu discussion
• develop research and academic writing skills, including the use of digital databases of linguistics research literature and of primary linguistic data.

Class preparation time
Success in this four-credit course is based on the expectation that students will spend a minimum of 9 hours of study time per week in preparation for class (readings, papers, preparation for exams, etc.).
Contact Details

Instructor:
Sophia A. Malamud
Office location: Volen 215
Telephone: (781) 736-2225
Email: smalamud AT brandeis DOT edu
Office hours: TBA. To make an appointment outside office hours, please email me.

TA:
Bailey Johnson
Email: baileyjohnson AT brandeis DOT edu

Course logistics

Class meeting times
Tuesday, Thursday 3:30-4:50 PM

Location
Volen Center for Complex Systems, Room 119

Textbook:
Betty Birner 2012. Introduction to pragmatics.

Reader:
A collection of papers in pragmatics will be available on LATTE (see below). Please check LATTE often, as all changes in schedule, assignments, deadlines, and materials will be broadcast through LATTE.

Course Requirements and Grading

Academic Integrity
Every member of the University community is expected to maintain the highest standards of academic integrity. A student shall not submit work that is falsified or is not the result of the student's own effort. Infringement of academic honesty by a student subjects that student to serious penalties, which may include failure on the assignment, failure in the course, suspension from the University or other sanctions (see section 20 of R&R). Please consult Brandeis University Rights and Responsibilities for all policies and procedures related to academic integrity. Students may be required to submit work to TurnItIn.com software to verify originality. A student who is in doubt regarding standards of academic honesty as they apply to a specific course or assignment should consult the faculty member responsible for that course or assignment before submitting the work. Allegations of alleged academic dishonesty will be forwarded to the Department of Student Rights and Community Standards. Citation and research assistance can be found at Brandeis Library Guides - Citing Sources
Assigned work

**Assigned readings, homework handouts, and presentations**
- Students are required to read textbook chapters and assigned papers before class.
- Students will prepare brief handouts based on a specific subset of assigned papers. The handouts will contain a precis and discussion of the assigned paper, as well as (very limited) data collection and data analysis, applying the concepts. These are homework assignments, and will be due by class time.
  - Homework handouts will be submitted electronically as pdf documents on LATTE.
- Students will present one of the assigned papers, and help lead class discussion of it, based on their homework handout.

**Term project**
- There will be a guided term research project, consisting of data collection, data analysis, and bibliographic research. The term project will involve collection (and for some of you, automatic processing) of naturally-occurring linguistic data to explore a topic in linguistic pragmatics.
- The small project will involve several assignments, starting with selecting a topic and research question and selecting a data set. The milestones are as follows:
  - Initial proposal: topic & research question, methodology idea, list of proposed papers due early October
  - Finalised proposal: finalised topic & research question, methodology idea, list of proposed papers due 2-3 weeks later, mid October
  - Annotated bibliography, sample examples, methodology sketch due early November
  - First full outline of handout: full abstract, bibliographic research section, methodology&discussion before Thanksgiving
  - Final full abstract due early December
  - Final extended handout (something intermediate between a handout and a squib) due before presentations start
- The project will culminate in a presentation at a mini-conference at the end of the term, based on the final extended handout, about 5-6 single-spaced pages long.
  - **Note: mini-conference will be scheduled during the final exam period. Attendance is mandatory. Please plan accordingly.**

Participation

Participation requirement includes attending class, actively participating in class discussions, coming for office hours before your presentations, and as soon as you have any questions for me and the TA or any help with the material, completing the readings and homework handouts before coming to class, raising questions as soon as ideas become unclear (either in class, in office hours, or via emails),
listening actively and attentively, responding thoughtfully to in-class questions, and (very importantly) reading and responding to course-related e-mails.

**Attendance**
Attendance will be checked starting from the first class meeting. You can skip any three classes for any reason. Any further skipped classes will incur a penalty of half a point from the final course grade, up to a total of the 10% attendance/participation grade.

**Late assignments, extensions, and communication**
Being on time and communicating with me is part of your grade for all course requirements.

- If you feel that you are failing to make a deadline, you should communicate with me immediately, and ask for an extension before the assignment is due.
  - I'm usually generous with extensions, but you will incur a late penalty (see below) if you just skip a deadline without prior communication with me.
  - I cannot accept late presentation handouts for the term project, since these must be completed before the presentation.
  - If a family or medical emergency intervenes, you should communicate with me as soon as you can.
- Late homework handout policies:
  - Late homework handouts will incur a 10% penalty for every day late
  - Assignments submitted on the due date but after the beginning of class will be considered one day late.
  - You cannot present a paper without first submitting a homework handout on it.

**Evaluation**
I will assign final course grades according to the following weights.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class Element</th>
<th>Grade Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance and participation, including communication with me, discussion of papers during others' presentations, and the presentation of one assigned paper.</td>
<td>15% - obligatory to qualify for a grade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homework handouts</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Term research project, including timely completion of milestone assignments    | 50%    
  - 40% for write-up assignments, culminating with the extended handout (see specific rubric on LATTE), including responding to comments and improvement from one version to the next
  - 10% mini-conference presentation                                           |
Essential Resources

Accommodations
Brandeis seeks to welcome and include all students. If you are a student who needs accommodations as outlined in an accommodations letter, I want to support you. In order to provide test accommodations, I need the letter more than 48 hours in advance. I want to provide your accommodations, but cannot do so retroactively. If you have questions about documenting a disability of requesting accommodations, please contact Student Accessibility Support (SAS) at 781.736.3470 or access@brandeis.edu.

LATTE
LATTE is the Brandeis learning management system: http://latte.brandeis.edu. Login using your UNET ID and password.

Student Support
Brandeis University is committed to supporting all our students so they can thrive. The following resources are available to help with the many academic and non-academic factors that contribute to student success (finances, health, food supply, housing, mental health counseling, academic advising, physical and social activities, etc.). Please explore the many links on this Support at Brandeis page (https://www.brandeis.edu/support/undergraduate-students/browse.html) to find out more about the resources that Brandeis provides to help you and your classmates to achieve success.

Preliminary schedule and public course website
Preliminary schedule of topics and assignments is available on LATTE and on the course website, https://www.cs.brandeis.edu/~ling140/

Please check back often (especially on LATTE), since it is subject to change.