

# Semantics 2

LING 460

Winter 2025  
Tu,Th 11:35–12:55  
1085 Pen 58e15(5)]T2

## Evaluation

homework assignments:	60%
presentation:	8%
paper:	32%

## Homework assignments

Homework assignments are primarily intended to consolidate students' understanding of material covered in class, often by presenting problems that invite students to apply class content in somewhat novel ways. The types of answers to questions in homework assignments include short texts, but also technical exercises, such as line-by-line derivations detailing hypothesized steps of semantic composition.

For homework assignments, collaboration in groups of two is permitted, that is, each student may team up with one other student. If you do work with another student, you must submit a single joint assignment. No collaboration across different teams is permitted.

## Final projects

Normally in teams of up to two, you will choose and investigate a topic of your interest for your final project that is related to course material. You will give a class presentation and write a short paper on that topic. The paper will typically include a critical review of one or more research papers, but it may also focus on the outcome of your own research—e.g., propose an analysis of certain data collected from native speakers or the internet, etc. The presentation is intended as a stepping stone towards the paper, and must be based on a handout or slides. There will be more information about final projects as the term progresses.

## Schedule (subject to possible revision)

The circled numbers in the schedule indicate projected due dates for homework assignments (sub-

WEEK 4		
Tu 01/28	Composition: Predicate Modification (modification by PP and AP)	Heim & Kratzer (1998, ch. 4)
Th 01/30		
WEEK 5		
Tu 02/04 ②	Determiner meanings: definiteness and quantification	Heim & Kratzer (1998, chs. 4, 6)
Th 02/06		
WEEK 6		
Tu 02/11	Composition: Predicate Abstraction (modification by relative clauses)	Heim & Kratzer (1998, ch. 5)
Th 02/13 ③		
WEEK 7		
Tu 02/18		
Th 02/20		
WEEK 8		
Tu 02/25	Composition: covert movement (object quantifiers)	Heim & Kratzer (1998, ch. 7)
Th 02/27 ④		
WINTER READING BREAK (03/03-03/07)		
WEEK 9		
Tu 03/11	Puzzle: "degree of definiteness"	Alonso-Ovalle & Schwarz (2023)
Th 03/13		
WEEK 10		
Tu 03/18 ⑤	Puzzle: "functional definiteness"	Palucci (in press)
Th 03/20		
WEEK 11		
Tu 03/25		
Th 03/27 ⑥		
WEEK 12		
Tu 04/01	Student presentations	
Th 04/03		
WEEK 13		
Tu 04/08	Student presentations	
Th 04/10		

## Course rules

### Academic integrity

McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore, all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences under the code of student conduct and disciplinary procedures (see <http://www.mcgill.ca/integrity> for more information).

L'université McGill attache une haute importance à l'honnêteté académique. Il incombe par conséquent à tous les étudiants de comprendre ce que l'on entend par tricherie, plagiat et autres infractions académiques, ainsi que les conséquences que peuvent avoir de telles actions, selon le Code de conduite de l'étudiant et des procédures disciplinaires (pour de plus amples renseignements, veuillez Tf 146.01288ac-

## Inclusiveness

As instructors of this course, I endeavor to provide an inclusive learning environment. However, if you experience barriers to learning in this course, do not hesitate to discuss these with us and [Student Accessibility and Achievement](#).

## References

- Alonso-Ovalle, Luis, and Bernhard Schwarz. 2023. Structural ambiguity in pseudo-partitives: the case of quantity nouns. In *Proceedings of Semantics and Linguistic Theory (SALT) 33* ed. Juhya Kim and Burak Oney. Linguistic Society of America.
- Cresswell, M.J. 1988. Semantic competence. In *Semantical Essays* volume 36 of *Studies in Linguistics and Philosophy*, 12–33. Springer Netherlands.
- Heim, Irene, and Angelika Kratzer. 1998. *Semantics in Generative Grammar*. Blackwell, Oxford.