CSE 576 Introduction to Natural Language Processing
Arizona State University
Draft Syllabus - Page 1 of 2

Essentials
Fall 2008, 12:15-1:30pm, Mondays and Wednesdays, BYAC 240.
Instructors: Chitta Baral, Gregory Aist
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Office hours
Prof. Baral: TBD Dr. Aist: Brickyard 474, Mondays 2:15-3:15PM, Thursdays 10:30-11:30AM.

Course Overview
This course focuses on natural language semantics, primarily from a focus on natural language understanding (input) of sentences and written texts. Language in written and spoken forms and from multiple natural languages may be considered, but most of the focus will be on the processing of written English text.

Schedule
The two main sections of the course are Semantics of Sentences and Semantics of Discourse. Specific weekly topics listed are tentative. The primary textbooks for the course are the two volumes of Blackburn and Bos. Additional reading selections, if any, will be made available prior to the class period during which they will be discussed.

Assignments and Grading
Students will be graded on the following criteria.

- 20 percent: Class participation
- 30 percent: Exam (early November)
- 50 percent: Term project - done in groups of three or four students

Other Information
This course will make use of electronic communication such as electronic mail or Blackboard, e.g. for submitting assignments. (Please turn in assignments using the Digital Dropbox.) Access to computer, networking, and library facilities will be needed. Students are expected to read the assigned readings prior to class, come to class on time and be ready to participate in discussions.

If you need disability accommodations for this class, please contact the instructors as soon as possible, so that we may work with Disability Resources for Students (http://www.asu.edu/drs/) to meet your needs. Information regarding disability is confidential.

Textbooks

Additional books you may find useful include:

Hans Kamp and Uwe Reyle. *From Discourse to Logic*. Springer.

Please see the next page for the week-by-week course schedule.
Course Schedule

Introduction
Mon. Aug. 25th - Overview of the course. Role of computational semantics within NLP, AI, and computer science; role of computational semantics within the study of meaning and the language sciences.
Wed. Aug. 27th - Philosophy of language. (OR, begin discussion of syntax; OR, NLP in a nutshell - overview of various sorts of NLP processing to see where semantics fits in). Note that the philosophy of language material is distributed out to the “issues” weeks in this version of the syllabus.

Mon. Sept. 1st - Labor Day (no class)
Wed. Sept. 3rd - Syntax (Chapter zero of Kamp and Reyle).
Mon. Sept. 8th and Wed. Sept. 10th - Logic (First Order Logic chapter of Blackburn and Bos).

Semantics of Sentences
Mon. Oct. 6th and Wed. Oct. 8th - Propositional Inference (Chapter 4, vol. 1).

Semantics of Discourse
Mon. Nov. 3rd and Wed. Nov. 5th - Discourse Representation Theory (Chapter 1, Vol. 2)
Mon. Nov. 10th and Wed. Nov. 12th - Building Discourse Representations (Chapter 2, Vol. 2)
Mon. Nov. 17th and Wed. Nov. 19th - Pronoun Resolution (Chapter 3, Vol. 2)
Mon. Nov. 24th and Wed. Nov. 26th - Presupposition Projection (Chapter 4, Vol. 2)
Thurs. Nov. 27th and Fri. Nov. 28th - Thanksgiving Break

Final Weeks
Mon. Dec. 8th - TBA; likely, preliminary discussions of projects.

Final Draft of Term Project due at end of semester.
Presentation of final projects during final exam period.