The course will focus on a range of central topics in the semantics of natural language. The use of formal methods will be important, but only in response to the linguistic problems as they present themselves to us and as we then come to understand them when looking at them more closely.

The general topics to be considered in the class are (subject to modifications in response to participants’ requests):

1. Quantifiers and Quantification; Count Nouns and Mass Nouns; Plural and Singular.
2. Tense and Aspect
3. Presupposition
4. Intensionality, Modality and Propositional Attitudes
(5. Information Structure)

Each of these areas will presumably take three weeks or more. We may not be able to get to topic 5.

Course grades will be assigned on the basis of points (to a maximum of 100) that are to be obtained as follows:

i. Four graded home works at max. 10 points each.

ii. Midterm exam. Max. 20 points

iii. Term paper or final exam. Max. 40 points
(Since this is a graduate seminar, writing a term paper is strongly recommended.)