Course Description
This course is an introduction to the study of how language is used to communicate meanings. The earlier part of the course will deal with semantics, under two broad headings: lexical semantics (word meanings) and grammatical semantics (sentence meanings). Major topics in this part will include compositionality, semantic fields, prototype theory, and thematic roles. The second part of the course will deal with pragmatics, that is, how language communicates meanings in context. Major topics in this part will include speech acts, conversational implicatures, and politeness. The course will also look at idiomatic meanings and metaphor as ways of extending the semantic resources of language.

Course assessment:
The general framework for the course evaluation is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tutorial participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid-term examination</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essay assignment</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final examination</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Reading List

Main coursebook:

Supplementary coursebooks:
Leech, G. Semantics. Pelican.

A good dictionary (monolingual, English-English) will be useful, as will a copy of Roget’s Thesaurus.

Additional Reading:
Aitchison, J. Words in the Mind. 3rd edition. Blackwell. (especially chapters 4-12)
Austin, J. L. *How to do things with words*. Oxford.
Carter, R. *Vocabulary*. Routledge. (especially chapter 2)
Glucksberg, S. *Understanding Figurative Language: From metaphors to idioms*. Oxford.
Griffiths, P. *An Introduction to English Semantics and Pragmatics*. Edinburgh.
Lakoff, G. *Women, fire and dangerous things*. Chicago.