SYLLABUS

LING 530B: Linguistic Problems in a Special Area

THE SEMANTICS OF NUMERALS AND NUMBERS

1 Course information

This course is graduate seminar on the grammar of numerals. It's scheduled for Monday & Wednesday 2:00—3:30 in the Totem Fields Studios seminar room.

2 Prerequisites

LING 425/525 or the equivalent. We'll assume the essential tools of formal semantics. This includes lambda abstraction, predicate logic, semantic types, and a type-driven theory of the syntax-semantics interface.

That said, because that's quite a lot and because this is a small class, we can take the time to fill in additional background as needed.

3 Contact information

Me:	Marcin Morzycki
Email:	marcin.morzycki@ubc.ca
Office hours:	4:00–5:00 Wednesdays or by appointment
Office:	Totem Field Studios 226
Canvas:	We'll use Canvas for communication and logistical support.

4 Learning outcomes

- Encounter and reflect on approaches to the semantics of numerals and various related issues.

- Discuss these issues with colleagues in an original and ideally entertaining way, developing ideas collaboratively.
- Push beyond existing work and make an independent contribution to research in the area.
- Channel this into a paper that could in principle be published (as a conference proceedings paper, in a journal, etc.).

5 Course structure

The topic of the seminar is the semantics of numerals and related issues. We'll read and discuss literature in this area and present both others' work and our own to each other. Participants will also write an original research paper more or less related to the issues discussed in class.

6 Activities

The requirements for this course are:

- Participating *vigorously* in the discussion. This is not syllabus window-dressing. It is really a requirement.
- Writing an original research paper.
- Presenting your work on that paper.
- Presenting one of the readings.

7 Assessment

Final grades will be determined on the basis of written work and your contributions in class (in class presentations and more generally).

Overall participation:	25%
Presentation of an existing paper:	15%
Original research paper presentation:	15%
Original research paper write-up:	45%

8 Notes and course policies

Communication and work format You'll receive materials via Canvas, and that's also where you'll turn in your work. Make all work a PDF file. Please *don't* submit files in Word or any other format.

Disability Please notify me during the first two weeks of the course to make any special arrangements to accommodate a disability. If you haven't already done so, you should contact the UBC Centre for Accessibility.

Academic integrity   Don't plagiarize. The structure of the course may make this a little trickier than it might seem. If someone that isn't actually a coauthor gives you an idea that you use or build on, explicitly acknowledge this in the text. Explicit discussion of citation practices is occasionally helpful, so please don't hesitate to ask questions. For more on the university's academic integrity policies, look at the university's Academic Honesty and Standards statement.

Social media and copyright issues   Don't share course materials (handouts, assignments, recordings, etc.) with anyone outside of class. Don't record anything that happens in class without my prior approval.

9   University policies

Here is the standard UBC syllabus text about university policies and support:

> UBC provides resources to support student learning and to maintain healthy lifestyles but recognizes that sometimes crises arise and so there are additional resources to access including those for survivors of sexual violence. UBC values respect for the person and ideas of all members of the academic community. Harassment and discrimination are not tolerated nor is suppression of academic freedom. UBC provides appropriate accommodation for students with disabilities and for religious observances. UBC values academic honesty and students are expected to acknowledge the ideas generated by others and to uphold the highest academic standards in all of their actions.
>
> Details of the policies and how to access support are available on the UBC Senate website.

10   Acknowledgment

Here is the land acknowledgment we've officially adopted as a department:

> We acknowledge that the University of British Columbia is located on the traditional, ancestral and unceded territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm, Sḵwx̱wú7mesh, and Səl̓ílwətaɬ Nations (Vancouver campuses) and the Syilx peoples (Okanagan campus). We at UBC Linguistics consider this land acknowledgment to be an opportunity to show our commitment towards reconciliation and the recognition of Indigenous peoples and languages. Please visit native-land.ca or maps.fpcc.ca to learn more about these places, peoples and languages.

There's a corresponding intellectual fact worth acknowledging: that much of what linguistics has achieved rests on the empirical foundation of data shared

with us by countless native-speaker consultants over multiple generations, not infrequently in difficult circumstances.

11 Tentative schedule

This will definitely be modified and adjusted over the course of the semester to accommodate the direction of our conversation, our collective interests, and the pace at which we proceed.

This schedule is deliberately overambitious. We're almost certain to go at a much slower pace than indicated here.

Jan. 11: syllabus & logistics
introductory chatting
brief preview of some issues
for next time: Morzycki (2016) chapter 3 (about degrees)[1]

Jan. 16: degrees and measure phrases, and numerals as degrees
for next time: Bylinina & Nouwen (2020)

Jan. 17: overview of the semantics of numerals
(Bylinina & Nouwen 2020)
for next time: Bylinina & Nouwen (2018)

Jan. 23: Is *zero* a numeral? (Bylinina & Nouwen 2018,
Haida & Trinh 2020, Morzycki 2020)
for next time: Chow & Morzycki (2022)

Jan. 25: Variation and zero (Chow & Morzycki 2022)
for next time: Geurts & Nouwen (2007)

Jan. 30: Modified numerals and modality: the first perilous steps
(Geurts & Nouwen 2007)

Jan. 23: Modified numerals: modal flavor as an implicature
(Kennedy 2015)
for next time: Scontras (2014), chapter 2

Jan. 25: Number and numbers and building measure phrases
(Scontras 2014)
for next time: Gobeski & Morzycki (2023)

Jan. 30: Composite measure phrases
(Gobeski & Morzycki to appear, 2023)
for next time: Gobeski & Morzycki (2022)

Feb. 1: Ranges (Gobeski & Morzycki 2022)
for next time: nothing in particular

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[1]Especially section 3.5, which is especially about degrees. (Yes, sorry, I'm making us read me as the first thing. I'm suitably embarrassed.)

Feb. 6:	Reckless diachronic speculation day: Scales and the development of measurement *for next time:* Nouwen (2018)
Feb. 8:	Modified numerals and locative metaphors (Nouwen 2018) *for next time:* Ionin & Matushansky (2006)
Feb. 13:	Building complex cardinal numerals (Ionin & Matushansky 2006) *for next time:* Rothstein (2017) chapter 2
Feb. 15:	Rothstein on 'numericals' (Rothstein 2017 chapter 2) *for next time:* Bylinina et al. (2014)
Feb. 20 & 22:	*Reading week, which ironically means we're not reading anything*
Feb. 27:	Ordinal numerals: shouldn't we know more? (Bylinina et al. 2014, 2015, Rothstein 2017) *for next time:* Anderson (2020)
March 1:	Complex numerals and approximation (Anderson 2020) *for next time:* Krifka (2007)
March 6:	Why are round numbers often approximate? (Krifka 2007) *for next time:* Anderson (2015)
March 8:	Approximation and determiners (Anderson 2015) *for next time:* nothing in particular
March 13:	*Chat about potential paper topics* *for next time:* Rothstein (2017) chapter 6
March 20:	Rothstein on crosslinguistic variation (Rothstein 2017 chapter 6) *for next time:* optionally, Barker (1992)
March 25:	Ktunaxa day (possibly one of several): Number and groups *for next time:* Underhill & Morzycki (to appear)
March 27:	Single (Underhill & Morzycki to appear) *for next time:* nothing in particular
March 29:	Groups and folds: how numerals spawn new words *for next time:* Wągiel & Caha (2021)
April 3:	Types of numerals and complex cardinals revisited (Wągiel & Caha 2021) *for next time:* Coppock (2022)
April 5:	Degree multiplication (Coppock 2022)
April 10:	*Paper presentations*
April 12:	*Paper presentations*
April 24	*Paper due*

Alternatives   A few possible additions/replacements/alternatives:

- What are numbers, are numerals their names, and other philosophical issues.
- Much more on modification of numerals.
- Anthropological work on numbers.
- The grammar of arithmetic (Hurford 1987, Gobeski 2019).
- More on varieties of numbers, such as percentages (Ahn & Sauerland 2015, 2017, Gobeski & Morzycki 2018).
- More on varieties of measure phrase, such as proportional ones.
- Degrees and locative language
- Partitives, pseudopartitives, and conservativity of measurement (Schwarzschild 2006 and other work since).
- Numerals in particular languages and language families.

Everyone should feel free to make suggestions, early on or as we proceed.

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