Language in Context
Linguistics 8
Jessica Rett, UCLA

when: Mondays & Wednesdays, 12-2pm
where: Rolfe 3120

course description:
How is the meaning of language influenced by the world around us? Introduction to pragmatics, speech acts, sociolinguistics, ordinary language philosophy, and linguistic relativity. A good foundation for students of linguistic theory, philosophy, sociology, anthropology, and communication studies.

grading structure:
daily reading, attendance & participation (20% of your grade);
bi-weekly squibs (40% of your grade);
a final paper (40% of your grade)

textbook:
Pragmatics, by Siobhan Chapman. Palgrave Macmillan, 2011.
Selected readings (available on the website) from *Language: introductory readings*,
by V. Clark, P. Eschholz, A. Rosa, and B. Simon. Bedford St. Martin's, 2008.

wk	date	topic	readings	due
1	Oct. 6	introduction to language	*Language* Chapter 1 ("Nine ideas...")	
	Oct. 8	linguistic universals	*Language* Chapter 14 ("The Tower...")	
2	Oct. 13	translation issues	*Language* Chapters 31 & 35	squib 1
	Oct. 15	dialects & dialectology	*Language* Chapter 25 ("Regional...")	
3	Oct. 20	language contact & development	*Language* Chapters 30 & 28	
	Oct. 22	language & gender 1	*Language* Chapter 37 ("Discourse...")	
4	Oct. 27	language & gender 2	*Language* Chapter 38 ("I'll explain...")	squib 2
	Oct. 29	introduction to pragmatics	*Pragmatics* §1.1–1.2	
5	Nov. 3	the semantics/pragmatics interface 1	*Pragmatics* §2.1–2.4	
	Nov. 5	the semantics/pragmatics interface 2	*Pragmatics* §2.5–2.7	
6	Nov. 10	speech acts	*Language* Chapter 18 ("Talk and action")	squib 3
	Nov. 12	speech act theory	*Pragmatics* §4.1	
7	Nov. 17	conversational implicature	*Pragmatics* §4.2	
	Nov. 19	compositionality & contextualism	*Pragmatics* §5.3	
8	Nov. 24	acquisition of pragmatics	*Pragmatics* §6.3	squib 4
	Nov. 26	*class canceled*		
9	Dec. 1	clinical pragmatics	*Pragmatics* §6.4	
	Dec. 3	experimental pragmatics	*Pragmatics* §6.5	
10	Dec. 8	linguistic relativity	"Whorfianism and colors" (online)	squib 5
	Dec. 10	*class canceled*		

about the squibs
'Squib' is a word for a very brief paper. *Your squibs should be around 500 words (one page single-spaced or two pages double-spaced).* These squibs are an opportunity for you to show that you are following the readings and class discussion, and that you're able to apply this knowledge (instead of just summarizing it). Ideally, your squib would consist of a brief summary of some aspect of what we've discussed and then the exploration of at least one question that arises when you think about that topic. I will not accept late squibs, but to build in some flexibility, I will drop your lowest squib grade.

about the paper
Your final paper should be based on one of the topics we cover in class. You could examine how a given phenomenon works in a language we do not cover; you could discuss the philosophical or computational ramifications of a phenomenon or theory; you could read and review experimental investigations of a phenomenon. I will be posting some possible paper topics on the website as the quarter progresses, but feel free to come up with your own. It will be *a lot* easier for you to choose a topic and research it if you meet with me beforehand, so please visit my office hours to discuss your paper, the earlier the better. If you fail to do so, it will certainly negatively affect your paper grade.

Your papers should be 2,500-3,000 words (6-8 pages single-spaced or 10-13 double-spaced). Please use standard fonts, font sizes (12pt), and margins (1in). Your paper is due to me via email in .pdf format by **midnight, Thursday December 18**. I will not accept late papers.

about integrity
Plagiarism is antithetical to the goals of a university and I have absolutely no tolerance for it. If you plagiarize at all, or if you submit something that is qualitatively indistinguishable from plagiarizing, you will fail this course and be referred to the Dean of Students. If you're confused about what counts as plagiarism, please consult UCLA's policies on academic integrity at http://www.studentgroups.ucla.edu/dos/students/integrity/.