Matrix and Embedding Contexts: 
Semantic and Pragmatic Issues  
SoSe 2020  
Syllabus

ORIGINAL COURSE DESCRIPTION
This advanced seminar examines several semantic and pragmatic effects arising in matrix environments and/or in embedding contexts, investigates their form-to-meaning mapping and seeks to establish correlations between them. At the matrix level, we will examine *wh*-questions (exhaustivity of the question and of the *wh*-phrase), alternative questions, polar questions and non-canonical questions like biased questions, rising declaratives and tag questions. At the embedded level, we will investigate the semantics of attitude verbs and modals, embedding puzzles (selection of indicative vs. subjunctive, *surprise*+AltQ/PolQ, *realize*+AltQ/PolQ and *admit*-*if*-PolQ) and the distribution of German discourse particles (e.g., *schon, denn, bloss*) in embedded environments.

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G22  
Office hours: Thursdays 11:30-12:30h

COURSE PREREQUISITES
Knowledge of Formal Semantics at least equivalent to Ling215.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS
- Possibly some practice exercises
- Class presentation of a paper
- Term paper: presented at our Mini-Conference on the last session of the semester and written up and handed in by September 1.
OUTLINE OF THE COURSE

ON THE MEANING OF MODALS AND ATTITUDE VERBS

- Traditional approaches: Hintikka-style vs. Stalnaker-Heim-style
- Degree-based approaches
- Free choice effects of disjunction under modals and attitude verbs
- Decomposing layers of modality
- Decomposing factivity


INTERROGATIVE AND DECLARATIVE COMPLEMENT CLAUSES

- Embedding verbs and exhaustivity of wh-interrogatives
- Finiteness: finite vs. infinitival
- Matrix clause effects in complement clauses. Factive islands.

Green, J.J. 2016. Control of local and remote rationale clauses.
### Focus in (Matrix) Questions

- Background on Focus
- Focus in or-not-AltQs
- Focus in WhQ and AltQs
- Focus and particles in PolQ and/or Tag-questions


Roelofsen & Farkas


### Other

- More on particles in PolQs
- V2