



Erasmus+

Incoming Mobility Sessions

- Applied Linguistics
- Cross cultural and interlanguage pragmatics.
- Critical Discourse Analysis.

Dr. Sufyan Abuarrah
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Hosted by the OUC Programme of Study: MA in Greek Linguistics and Literature

Instructor and short bio

Sufyan Abuarrah received his PhD in Linguistics from Vrije Universiteit Brussels (VUB) in 2011. Since then, he has been teaching at the Department of English Language and Linguistics at An-Najah National University, Nablus, Palestine. Abuarrah acted as the director of the Language Center for two years. Currently he is the coordinator of the MA program in Applied Linguistics and Translation. Abuarrah's research interest is particularly interdisciplinary. He focuses on language function in relation to language teaching, translation, cultural understanding, and discourse studies.

An-Najah National University Profile: <https://staff.najah.edu/en/profiles/2636/>

Contents of the Teaching Programme

- **Lecture 1: Grice and Neo- Gricean theories of implied meaning.**

[ONLINE]

Monday, March 4, 2024 | 12:00 – 14:00 (GMT+2)

Live streaming link:

<https://tinyurl.com/w83nj23j>

Abstract:

This lecture explores the foundational principles of Gricean pragmatics and its evolution into Neo-Gricean approaches. The focus of this lecture will be on the Cooperative Principle, maxims of conversation, and conversational implicature (observing, flouting, violating, opting out of principles). Through examples and analysis, students will gain insight into how these theories elucidate the nuanced layers of meaning in everyday language use (inferencing of meaning).

Lecture 1 is mostly relevant to students of the Postgraduates Programmes “Greek Linguistics and Literature”, “Communication and New Journalism”, “PNYX: Political History, Theory and Practice”, as well as the Undergraduate Programme “Studies in Hellenic Culture”.

- **Lecture 2: Relevance Theory.**

[ONLINE]

Tuesday, March 5, 2024 | 18:00 – 20:00 (GMT+2)

Live streaming link:

<https://tinyurl.com/w83nj23j>

Abstract:

In this lecture, students will explore Relevance Theory as a cognitive approach to pragmatics, rooted in two fundamental Gricean principles. Firstly, it acknowledges that human communication, whether verbal or non-verbal, involves the explicit expression and inferential recognition of intentions. Secondly, it posits that in inferring these intentions, the listener assumes that the communicator's behavior will

adhere to certain standards. Grice formulated these standards based on the Cooperative Principle and maxims, while relevance theory extends this notion, suggesting that due to evolutionary pressures, both cognition and communication are inherently relevance-oriented. Relevance, within this framework, is defined in terms of cognitive effects and processing effort: essentially, the greater the cognitive effects and the lesser the processing effort, the higher the perceived relevance. Through this lens, students will gain insights into how communication is intricately tied to cognitive processes and the pursuit of optimal relevance.

Lecture 2 is mostly relevant to students of the Postgraduates Programmes “Greek Linguistics and Literature”, “Communication and New Journalism”, “PNYX: Political History, Theory and Practice”, as well as the Undergraduate Programme “Studies in Hellenic Culture”.

- **Lecture 3: Cross cultural and interlanguage pragmatics.**
[ONLINE]
Wednesday, March 6, 2024 | 18:00 – 20:00 (GMT+2)

Live streaming link:

<https://tinyurl.com/w83nj23j>

Abstract:

This lecture explores the field of cross-cultural pragmatics. It is dedicated to the examination of linguistic behaviors across diverse languages. Students will be able to compare and contrast linguistic behaviors with a focus on profiling linguistic realization strategies and understand how cultural norms and societal factors shape communicative practices. The students also will be able to understand speech acts realization within the context of language learning (interlanguage pragmatics) and evaluate the influence of learners' first language (L1) pragmatic knowledge and cultural background on their second language (L2) pragmatic development, including instances of pragmatic transfer, interference, and accommodation.

Lecture 3 is open to all students interested on the topic of cross-cultural pragmatics.

- **Lecture 4: Critical discourse analysis.**
[ONLINE]
Thursday, March 7, 2024 | 10:00 – 12:00 (GMT+2)

Live streaming link:

<https://tinyurl.com/w83nj23j>

Abstract:

This lecture explores the multifaceted field of Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA). The lecture will define CDA, its approaches (sociocognitive, historic discursal, multimodal perspectives, and dialectical relational). The lecture will be focused on the dialectical relational approach, shedding light on its key concepts (text, social practices, and socio-cultural practice). Through an in-depth exploration of Fairclough's Dialectical-Relational Approach, attendees will gain a comprehensive understanding of how discourse reflects and reproduces social structures, power dynamics, and ideological influences. By

examining real-world examples and engaging in critical analysis, participants will uncover the intricate interplay between language, discourse, and societal power relations. This lecture aims to equip students with the analytical tools and theoretical frameworks necessary to critically evaluate and deconstruct discourses in diverse contexts.

Lecture 4 is open to all students, and it can be of particular relevance to PhD candidates.

Skills

The topics of the lectures and workshops are the following:

- Grice and Neo-Gricean theories of implied meaning.
- Relevance Theory
- Cross cultural and interlanguage pragmatics
- Critical discourse analysis

Teaching/learning method(s)

Several teaching techniques and methods will be used to effectively facilitate the learning process of this series of lectures. These methods will include hybrid and/or online live interactive sessions, group discussions, short quizzes.

Recommended previous knowledge and skills

Not applicable.

Language of instruction

English.

Other

Attendance and completion certificates will be available to all participants.

Registration link: <https://forms.office.com/e/wSzm2WYzC0>