

Languages contain expressions such as ‘I’, ‘you’, ‘here’, and ‘now’, that vary what they name with the contexts in which they are used. What is the interplay among their meaning, the context for their use, and the speakers’ and hearers’ perspectives in the contexts in which they are used? The course is a text-book guided seminar on approaches to the question in philosophy of language and linguistic semantics, with a selected introduction to some current research. After developing the philosophical and formal background, the course examines what cross-linguistic variation and literary modulation in the meaning and use of these expressions tells us about meaning, context, and perspective.

Herman Cappelen & Josh Dever. 2016. *Context and Communication*. Contemporary Introductions to Philosophy of Language.

Oxford: Oxford University Press.

[C&C]

Márta Abrusán. 2020. The spectrum of perspective shift: protagonist projection versus free indirect discourse. *Linguistics & Philosophy*.

Amy Rose Deal. 2020. *A Theory of Indexical Shift: Meaning, Grammar and Crosslinguistic Variation*. Cambridge, MA.: MIT Press.

[IS]

Regine Eckardt. 2015. *The Semantics of Free Indirect Discourse: How texts allow us to mind-read and eavesdrop*. Leiden: Brill.

[FID]

Emar Maier. 2015. Quotation and unquotation in free indirect discourse. *Mind & Language* 30.3: 345-375.

Emar Maier & Andreas Stokke, eds. (2022) *The Language of Fiction*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Yael Sharvit. 2008. The puzzle of free indirect discourse. *Linguistics & Philosophy* 31.3: 353-395.

Additional readings to be assigned. ⚙ Grading & Requirements: Two brief critical commentaries on papers chosen in consultation with the instructor, 15% each. A final, longer critical commentary on at least two papers that disagree, 30% Almost weekly problem sets, 40%.

Week	Date	Topic	Readings
1	Jan 9	Meaning invariance & contextual variability	[C&C] Chapters 1-3.
2	Jan 18	A semantics for contextual variability	[C&C] Chapters 4-6.
3	Jan 23	A semantics for perspectival shift	[C&C] Chapters 7-8.
4	Jan 30	A semantics for perspectival shift	[C&C] Chapters 7-8.
5	Feb 6	Approaches to cross-linguistic variation in perspectival shift	[IS] Chapters 1-2.
6	Feb 13	Approaches to cross-linguistic variation in perspectival shift	[IS] Chapters 1-2.
7	Feb 22	The grammar of perspectival shift: Nez Perce	[IS] Chapters 3-4.
8	Feb 27	The grammar of perspectival shift: Nez Perce	[IS] Chapters 3-4.
9	Mar 6	The literary mind: Free Indirect Discourse	[IS] Chapter 5. [FID] Chapters 1,3.

☞ SPRING RECESS ☞ MARCH 13-20

10	Mar 20	The literary mind: Free Indirect Discourse	[IS] Chapter 5. [FID] Chapters 1,3.
11	Mar 27	Tense & Aspect in Free Indirect Discourse	[FID] Chapter 4.
12	Apr 3	The narrator’s voice in Free Indirect Discourse	[FID] Chapter 5.
13	Apr 10	Approaches to the semantics and pragmatics of Free Indirect Discourse	[FID] Chapter 7.
14	Apr 17	For two players, the communication game: presupposition, negotiation and accommodation.	[C&C] Chapters 9-11.
15	Apr 24	For two players, the communication game: presupposition, negotiation and accommodation.	[C&C] Chapters 9-11.

Late assignments are not accepted for grading without exigent circumstances or prior arrangement for due cause. All must be submitted to

receive a final grade for the course. **Academic Conduct:** Plagiarism – presenting someone else’s ideas as your own, either verbatim or recast in your own words – is a serious academic offense with serious consequences. Please familiarize yourself with the discussion of plagiarism in *SCampus* in Part B, Section 11, “Behavior Violating University Standards” policy.usc.edu/scampus-part-b. Other forms of academic dishonesty are equally unacceptable. See additional information in *SCampus* and university policies on scientific misconduct, <http://policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct>.

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