**KSA 3212 KISWAHILI SEMANTICS AND PRAGMATICS CU 4 CH 60**

**Course Objectives**

1. To enable students to appreciate different aspects of meaning in words and how they can be described.
2. To help students to appreciate how language users achieve their goals in verbal interaction with others.

**Course Description**

This course introduces the study of meaning in language. It examines semantic meanings i.e. meanings encoded in the language system itself and also pragmatic meanings i.e. meanings inferred from the communicative context of language use.

**Course Outline**

The meaning of “meaning”

Types of meaning

Distinction between semantics and pragmatics

Theories of meaning; reference, ideational, behavioural and behaviourist, contextual, truth –conditional, use, etc.

Lexical Semantics I

The concept of “word” and “word – meaning”

Sense, denotation, reference

Sense relations: synonymy, homonymy, polysemy, and relational opposites

Lexical Semantics II

Semantic fields

Componential analysis

Meaning postulates

Prototype theory

-Sentence meaning

Assumptions of truth – conditional semantics

Principle of composition models: interpretive, generative, montague semantics

-Speech acts

Austin’s model

Scarle’s modifications; classification of speech acts

Problems; indirect speech act

Implicature

Grice’s co-operative principle (CP)

Problems with CP

**Learning Outcomes**

By the end of the course, the learner should be able to:

1. tell the distinction between semantics and pragmatics
2. do componential analysis of given lexemes
3. explain important concepts in pragmatics: implicature, deixis and presupposition

**Mode of Delivery**

* Lectures
* Group Discussion
* Role Play

**Mode of Assessment**

* Course work and Oral presentations will contribute 30%
* Final Examination will constitute 70%

**References**

Leech G. (1980). Explorations in Semantics and Pragmatics. University of Lancaster

Lyons J. (1969). Introduction to Theoretical Linguistics. London: Cambridge University Press.

Palmer F. R. (1976). Semantics. London: Oxford University Press.