ETAP 636 Fall, 2014 PRAGMATICS (3 credits)

Receive Albany credits at UCLA!

This is a special course that requires the enrolled students to participate at the 2nd International Conference of the American Pragmatics Association at the University of California, Los Angeles on October 17-19, 2014. Students can apply for financial support from the TESOL Program ($500 per student). Several scholarships will be awarded. Conference website: http://ampra.appling.ucla.edu/

2nd International Pragmatics Conference of the American Pragmatics Association at UCLA, October 17-19, 2014

The goal of the conference is to promote both theoretical and applied research in pragmatics, and bring together scholars who are interested in different subfields of pragmatics (philosophical, linguistic, cognitive, social, intercultural, interlanguage (L2 pragmatics), dialogue, pragmatic variation, politeness and impoliteness, discursive pragmatics, etc.). Three main topics of the conference are as follows:

▪ Pragmatics theories: neo-Gricean approaches, relevance theory, theory of mind, meaning, role of context, grammaticalization, semantics-pragmatics interface, prosody-semantics interface, syntax-pragmatics interface, explication, implicature, speech act theory, presuppositions, im/politeness, experimental pragmatics, pragma-dialogue, etc.

▪ Intercultural, cross-cultural and societal aspects of pragmatics: research involving more than one language and culture or varieties of one language, lingua franca, pragmatics and society, technologically mediated communication, bilinguals’ and heritage speakers’ language use, intercultural misunderstandings, effect of dual language and multilingual systems on the development and use of pragmatic skills, language of aggression and conflict, etc.

▪ Applications: usage and corpus-based approaches, interlanguage pragmatics, teachability and learnability of pragmatic skills, pragmatic variations within one language and across languages, developmental pragmatics, dialogue and pragmatics, etc.
Confirmed plenary speakers:
Kent Bach (San Francisco State University)
Agnes He (Stony Brook University)
Gregory Ward (Northwestern University)
Deirdre Wilson (University of London)

Course requirements:

1) Participate in the regular classes (Tuesdays, 4:15-7:05) on the following dates: 09/09; 09/16; 09/23; 09/30; 10/07; 10/28; 11/04; 11/11
The goal of these classes is to prepare you for the conference and discuss the main issues raised at the conference as well as help you select the topic of your paper.

2) Participate in the scientific activities at the conference (10/17-19)

AMPRA conference:
- be present at each of the four plenary lectures,
- participate in one of the three parallel sessions that will be held on the topics described above,
- it is not required but if you think that you can make a presentation at the conference, you should submit an abstract at the conference website. Deadline: April 15th.

You are responsible for your own travel arrangements, accommodation and expenses.

3) Write a term paper based on a selected topic that is connected with one of the parallel sessions or plenary lectures

Deadline for paper submission: 13:00, December 14, 2014
Papers should be submitted electronically as an attachment to the following address: istvan.kecskes@gmail.com

The final examination paper is a professional paper following the guidelines of either APA or MLA style. The paper cannot be shorter than 12 double-spaced pages (plus references and tables if needed), and cannot be longer than 30 double-spaced pages (plus references and tables if needed).
Focus: review of or discussion on the selected issue from your OWN perspective using conference materials, lectures (and your own research).

Credits will be awarded only if all three requirements are met in full. Credits can be used to fulfill one of the following requirements in the TESOL program: Linguistics; Language in use; or Elective
Application for scholarship

Important: Not every participant will be awarded a scholarship. If you are not awarded one, you can still participate using your own funds. Sorry, it is not possible to take the class without the conference. Participation in the conference is mandatory because the whole class is built around the conference.

If you would like to receive financial support, please submit a request to Prof. Istvan Kecskes by April 28, 2014. Your application should contain the following: Name, your major, student status, email address, a brief description of why you have decided to take the course (no more than one page) and a justification of financial need.

If you are interested in participating and have questions, please contact Prof. Kecskes at istvan.kecskes@gmail.com