

SL400: T 2:30-3:45; F 10:30-11:45

METAPHOR THEORY

Dr. David S. Danaher

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Office hours: W 1:20-2:30 and Th 11:00-12:00

Course Description This course introduces students to recent research on metaphor (and, secondarily, metonymy) as a conceptual and linguistic structure. The scope of the readings is purposefully broad. Much of the theoretical reading will necessarily be done in English, although in the course we will make an effort to apply the theoretical framework to an examination of the role of metaphor in Slavic languages and literatures. While much work has been done on Slavic lexical semantics from a cognitive perspective (e.g., semantics of prefixation), application of a conceptual theory of metaphor to the structure of Slavic languages, and especially to literary analysis, remains a relatively unexplored - but potentially quite rich - area of research.

Students will be strongly encouraged to attend monthly meetings of the Mellon Workshop on Metaphor. Tentative guest speakers include: Ray Gibbs from UC-Santa Cruz (author of *Poetics of Mind*), Eve Sweetser from UC-Berkeley, and Laura Janda from UNC-Chapel Hill. For a schedule, see: <http://palimpsest.lss.wisc.edu/~danaher/metaphor/>.

Students will be expected to write a 10-15 page paper applying the metaphor framework to Slavic data.

Readings. I have ordered the following texts as required readings; they should be available in the university bookstore:

- Gibbs, R. 1994. *The Poetics of Mind*.
- Lakoff, G. and M. Johnson. 1980. *Metaphors We Live By*.
- Lakoff, G. and M. Turner. 1989. *More Than Cool Reason*.
- Ortony, A (ed.). 1993. *Metaphor and Thought*.

Two books are recommended for purchase:

- Turner, M. 1994. *Reading Minds*.
- Johnson, M. 1987. *The Body in the Mind*.

Also check out the following websites:

<<http://philosophy.uoregon.edu/metaphor/metaphor.htm>>, <http://cogsci.berkeley.edu/>,
and <<http://www.cs.bham.ac.uk/~jab/ATT-Meta/Databank/index.html>>.

In addition to these texts, we will be reading a significant number of articles. These will be made available on a weekly basis as the semester progresses and are in lieu of a course-packet. To defer the costs of copying this course-packet-in-progress, I will ask for

\$10 from each student (cash or checks made out to University of Wisconsin). I also encourage everyone to purchase a binder and *regularly* organize all materials.

Requirements. The following are requirements for successful completion of the course; I have also indicated how each requirement will figure in the final grade.

- Attendance/participation in discussions 15%
- Completion of readings and other homework 15%
- Presentation of selected readings to seminar 30%
- Oral presentation of final project 10%
- Written version of final project 30%

Since this is a graduate course, attendance is required and *active* contribution to discussion expected; allowances will, of course, be made for extraordinary circumstances such as illness. *Critical* reading of materials (thinking about the reading, taking notes on it, keeping a running list of questions about it, etc.) is also assumed.

Over the course of the semester, each student will have the opportunity to present selected readings to the group. Each student will also present two articles on the interface of metaphor and literature to the group (for a selection of articles, see: [//palimpsest.lss.wisc.edu/~danaher/coglit/publications.html](http://palimpsest.lss.wisc.edu/~danaher/coglit/publications.html)). Students will give the instructor a written synopsis (abstract) of the article being presented.

Final Projects. The final project comprises 40% of the final grade. Projects will be presented both orally (to the whole class) and in written form at the end of the semester. Students will be expected to choose a topic for their project early in the semester in order to allow for development of ideas. Periodic consultations with me (and drafts) are strongly encouraged.

Grading. Grades will be earned according to the following scale.

| | | | |
|-------|----|-------|---|
| 93+ | A | 70-77 | C |
| 88-92 | AB | 60-69 | D |
| 83-87 | B | 0-59 | F |
| 78-82 | BC | | |

NB: Barring extreme circumstances, incompletes will NOT be given.

SEMESTER SYLLABUS

Week 1:

[January]

T 21

What is metaphor? Brainstorming. Introduction to course

F 24

Background: traditional views. Intro to a conceptual theory of metaphor.

- Searle, "Metaphor", chp. 6 in Ortony.
- Nietzsche, "On Truth and Falsity in Their Extramoral Sense", handout.
- Black, "More about Metaphor", chp. 2 in Ortony.
- Davidson, "What Metaphors Mean", handout.

Week 2:

T 28

Conceptual metaphors. The CONDUIT metaphor for communication.

- Lakoff and Johnson, *Metaphors*, through chp. 13.
- Reddy, "The CONDUIT Metaphor", chp. 10 in Ortony.
- Gibbs, "Understanding metaphorical expressions", chp. 5 in Gibbs.

F 31

Challenges and a response. Uspensky's anticipation.

- Wierzbicka, "Metaphors Linguists Live By", handout.
- Lakoff, "Meanings of the Literal", handout.
- Uspensky, "O veshchnykh konnotatsiakh...", handout.

Week 3:

[February]

T 4

Experiential bases of metaphor. Image-schemas.

- Lakoff and Johnson, *Metaphors*, chps. 14-20.
- Johnson, *Body in the Mind*, preface and chps. 1-3.

W5

Metaphor Workshop, 6-8 pm: Metaphors in Science.

- Short readings in the form of handouts.

F 7

Continued. Examples.

- Johnson, *Body in the Mind*, chps. 4 and 5.
- Rakhilina, "Semantika russkikh pozitsionnykh predikatov", handout.
- Gibbs et al, "Taking a Stand on the Meaning of *Stand*", handout.

Week 4:

T 11

More examples: "straight" and "bent".

- Cienki, "STRAIGHT: An Image Schema...", handout.
- Cienki, "Slavic Roots for 'Straight' and 'Bent'", handout.

F 14

Summing up. First presentations on coglit.

- Lakoff, "The Contemporary Theory of Metaphor," chp. 11 in Ortony.

Week 5:

T 18

Force.

[Rescheduled!]

- Talmy, "Force Dynamics in Language and Cognition", handout.

F 21

Vision.

- Sweetser, “English Perception-Verbs in an Indo-European...”, handout.
- Andrews, “Seeing Is Believing: Vision Categories in Russian”, handout.
- Danaher on vision metaphors in Tolstoy.

Week 6:

T 25

Time.

- Moore, “Deixis and the FRONT/BACK Opposition in Temporal...”, handout.

F 28

Emotion.

- Kövecses, Chps. 1 and 2 from “Metaphor and Emotion”, handout.
- Kövecses, “Metaphor and the Folk Understanding of Anger”, handout.
- Mostovaja, “Social Roles as Containers in Russian”, handout.
- Gibbs et al, “What’s Special about Figurative Language in...”, handout.

Week 7:

[March]

M 3

WRITTEN PROPOSALS FOR PROJECT TOPICS ARE DUE!!!

T 4

Conceptual metaphor theory in literary analysis.

- Lakoff and Turner, *More Than Cool Reason*, preface and chps. 1 and 2.
- Turner, *Reading Minds*, preface [pretext].

W5

Metaphor Workshop, 6-8 pm: Gibbs as Guest Speaker.

F 7

Continued.

- Lakoff and Turner, *More Than Cool Reason*, chps. 3, 4.
- Turner, *Reading Minds*, chps. 1 -4.

Week 8:

T 11

Second presentations on coglit.

F 14

No class!

Week 9:

**Spring
Break!!**

BEGIN WORK ON YOUR PROJECT!!!

Week 10:

T 25

Challenges to Turner et al.

-]Gross, “Cognitive Readings”, handout.

F 28 **Metonymy and its relation to metaphor.**
-Gibbs, *Poetics of Mind*, chp. 7.
-Lakoff, *Women, Fire, and Dangerous Things*, chp. 5, handout.

Week 11:
[April]

T 1 **Continued.**
-Jakobson, *On Language*, chp. 7, handout.
-Dirven, “Metonymy and metaphor: different mental strategies...”,
handout.

F 4 **Metaphors in education.**
-Herron, “Foreign Language Learning Approaches as Metaphor”, handout.

Week 12:
T 8

Metaphor and cultural models.
-Cienki, “Metaphors and Cultural Models...”, handout.
-Quinn, “The Cultural Basis of Metaphor”, handout.

F 11 **Instead of class: Laura Janda on Metaphor and Slavic Aspect.**

Week 13:
T 15

Metaphor in thought and reasoning.
-Emanatian, “The Spatialization of Judgment,” handout.
-Lakoff, “Metaphor and War,” handout.

F 18 **No class.**

Week 14:
T 22

Metaphor and politics
-Lakoff, *Moral Politics*, chps. 1 and 2.

F 25 **Blending I.**
-Fauconnier and Turner, chps. 2 and 3, “The Way We Think”, handout.

Week 15:
T 29

Blending II.
-Lakoff, “The Metaphor System for Conceptualizing the Self”, handout.

[May]

F 2

Metaphorical analogy in *Anna Karenina*.

-Silbajoris, chp. 5 in "Tolstoy's Aesthetics and His Art", handout.

Week 16:

T 6

Presentations of final projects in class!

W7

Metaphor Workshop, 6-8 pm: Topic TBA.

F 9

Consultations on projects.

W 14

Written projects due in my mailbox by noon!

This syllabus is subject to change at the instructor's discretion