

**Pragmatics**  
Autumn 2020, Opava  
(teacher: Jan Chovanec, chovanec@phil.muni.cz)

Modified course instructions, version 22.11.2020

**Course syllabus**

25.9. Session 1 – Lecture 1a – Basic concepts in pragmatics  
25.9. Session 2 – Lecture 1b – Approaches to pragmatics  
(Content to be found in: Yule Ch1-3, 5-6)

18.12. Session 3 – Practical analysis, discussion of readings  
(Readings for class: Yule CH 7-9)

Final exam: a written test based on compulsory readings. The test includes concepts, open-ended questions and practical analysis of sample texts.

Cutting, Joan – in Section C, you will find a lot of sample exercises. These types of texts and tasks may be included in the exam.

**Course readings:**

Yule, George (1996) *Pragmatics*. Oxford: OUP.

Chapter 4 is marginal. Pages 40-45 (on implicature) are marginal. They will not be included in the exam.

Cutting, Joan (2002) *Pragmatics and Discourse*. – Sections A+B (pages 1-76)

Cutting, Joan (2002) *Pragmatics and Discourse* – Section C – optional.

Please note that the content of Yule (1996) and Cutting (2002) partly overlaps. Cutting contains more explanations with examples.

**Requirements:**

data collection – covid humour on social media – 100 items + reflection on the material

analysis of text – 2 pages

written test/exam in class/long-distance

**Detailed instructions for assignments:**

Submit in “Odevzdavarna” in the Information System

**Assignment 1 - Data collection:** Czech covid humour (deadline: any time)

Data collection – covid humour on social media – 100 items + a brief reflection on the material. Please use CZECH covid humor. You can ask a member of your family to collect this for you, but you should write the reflection yourself, obviously (1 page is fine, your observations, explanations; you can comment on how you use/spread/create covid humour, you can copy a part of an interactive sequence from Messenger or Whatsapp, where you/your friends are exchanging humour - your reflection need not be just on the material but also on how you joke and how you use this humour in

interaction with others. This is an open exercise, I welcome any ideas and reflections). The material can be submitted as a zipped file or a folder, the reflection probably best in an MS Word file. (Please make sure that the files with memes/cartoons can be further processed, we're compiling a database. Thank you!) (Multiple submissions are welcome.)

**Assignment 2 – Analysis of text** (deadline: before the exam)

Find any piece of text (written, spoken, online, broadcast, youtube video, youtube comments, twitter messages,...) and carry out a 2-page analysis according to any of the theoretical constructs mentioned in the readings. This can include: presupposition, speech acts, face, verbal aggression, context, etc. Please look for inspiration in Cutting's chapter. The submission should be made before the exam. I will process all submissions after we write the exam test.