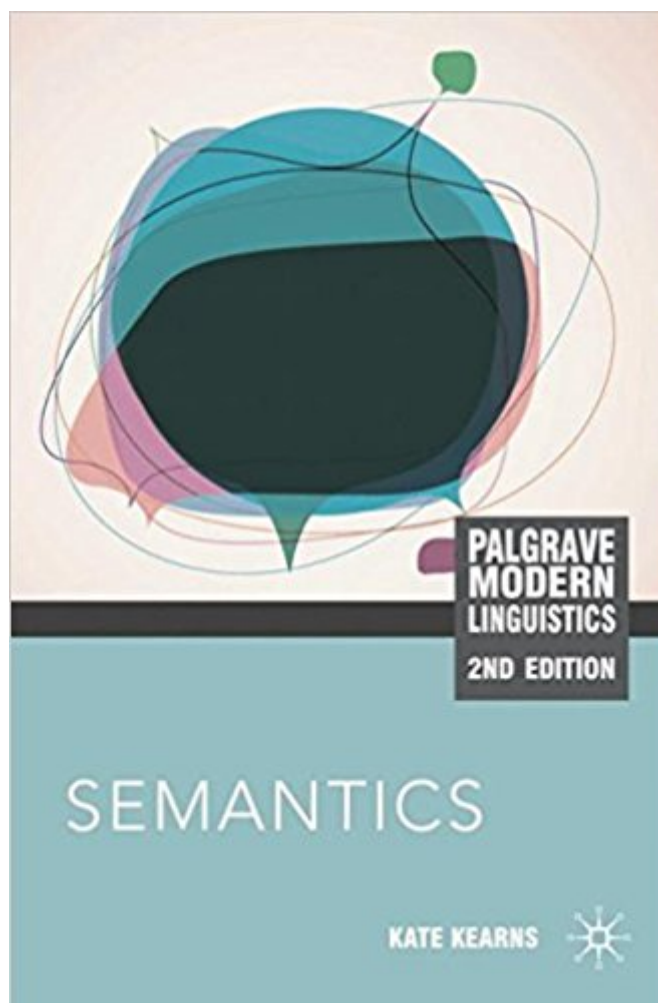


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Semantics (Palgrave Modern Linguistics)



Synopsis

Kearns' book provides a lively and engaging introduction to formal semantics. This new edition extends the scope of the first edition by providing additional material on formalization in a very accessible manner. The presentation is clear and user-friendly throughout, making this a really useful resource for use with undergraduates and beginning graduate students alike' Æ Æ Professor Louisa Sadler, University of Essex

Semantics is the study of the literal meaning of words and the meaning of the way words are combined. This engaging introduction to formal semantics assumes no prior knowledge, providing a solid understanding of a range of semantic phenomena. Truly wide-ranging in coverage, no other introductory textbook discusses a comparable range of topics. Areas covered include: Æ Æ a beginner's introduction to type theory and the lambda calculus Æ Æ generalized quantifier theory Æ Æ referential opacity Æ Æ thematic roles and lexical conceptual structure Æ Æ aktionsarten Æ Æ tense and aspect, including Discourse Representation Theory Æ Æ event semantics

Illustrated throughout with numerous practical examples, each chapter also contains exercises, graded to three different levels of difficulty, as well as suggestions for further reading. Thoroughly revised and expanded, this second edition includes entirely new material on type theory, lambda calculus, semantic composition and discussion of time within a narrative. Comprehensive and accessible, Semantics is ideal for both undergraduate and postgraduate students working at a variety of levels.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

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I bought this textbook for class. It is clear, easy to read, and precise, with plenty of examples. It is exactly what every textbook should be like.

good

This book is NOT intended as a first introduction to the subject. The author's own caution at the [bottom of p.

xi](<https://books.google.com/books?id=kK0cBQAAQBAJ&pg=PR11&lpg=PR11&dq=%22the+text+is+intended+to+be+used%22&source=bl&ots=5wUY4Q5DGc&sig=1jb1Ug-TJyN-IZDL9E-d-bZZS6U&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwiB7IzkmMXRAhUr7YMKHQ9LA8YQ6AEIJDAC#v=onepage&q=%22the%20text%20is%20intended%20to%20be%20used%22&f=false>) states:> The text is intended to be used as a coursebook, accompanied by lectures on the topics covered and by discussion of the exercises. This book is not a 'teach yourself' text for private, unassisted study. The exercises included are of varying difficulty — some are for basic review and are suitable for private revision, but the more demanding of exercises may best be used as the basis of class discussion sessions. As always, students are urged to also read other introductions to semantics which take a different approach.

I'm new to semantics & this book was assigned for a class. The book seems thorough in that it includes the basic concepts of semantics; the book mentions & illustrates the main points. However the book does not flow, so concepts are introduced and abandoned literally paragraph by

paragraph. A textbook (in my opinion) should build knowledge from introducing the core concepts and tools and then leading the reader step-by-step into the use of the concepts and tools toward competence in the subject. This book does not do this. Frustrated, I kept flipping back to prior pages and chapters trying to grasp a continuity which simply wasn't there. Instead of definitions and technical examples this book offers chatty paraphrasing which contributed very little to my understanding of semantics. I ended up making lists of the terms/concepts in the book and then looking up their definitions elsewhere. Surely there are better textbooks teaching semantics; if not then someone is missing a golden opportunity to write an accessible technical textbook!

It is useful for students and teachers
It is useful for students and teachers
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I read this book while attending a Semantics class taught by Dr. Kate Kearns at the same time. The book is clear and concise making abstract methods much easier to understand. I also felt that Dr. Kearns was an AMAZING professor!

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