Ling-I. Omni-Linguistics: Syllabus

V-NYI, Summer 2026

Up to date as of June 21, 2026

Instructor

Masha Esipova (['mɑʃə 'jesɪpəvə])
Lecturer (tenure-track) at Bar-Ilan University
Website: http://esipova.net
Email: maria.yesipova@gmail.com

Course description

This course adopts an "omni-linguistic" approach to meaning–form mappings in language and beyond. We will explore how different types of meaning are expressed through various channels in spoken and written communication (words and their parts, gestures, facial expressions, prosody, modifications of typed and handwritten text, emoji, etc.), and how the various bits of meaning thus expressed come together at different levels of representation. We will also discuss non-linguistic systems of meaning-form mappings in humans, such as pictorial and video representations.

Course materials

All course materials will be added to the NYI website. Please do not share these materials with anyone outside NYI without the instructor's permission.

Readings

You are not obliged to do any readings for this course. However, the materials folder contains most of the readings that the classes will be based on, in case you want to gain a deeper understanding of a specific topic.

Schedule (subject to change)

Date	Topics	Readings (all optional!)
6/26	Intro. Multi-channel communication.	Esipova 2019a,b, 2024; Schlenker 2018
6/29	Multi-channel communication.	Same
7/1	Pictures (and beyond).	Patel-Grosz et al. 2023, 3.1, 5.1; Abusch 2020; Cohn 2018, 2020; Esipova 2021; Klomberg et al. 2023
7/6	Film.	Cumming et al. 2017; Esipova 2023a
7/8	Resistance training. Chess.	Esipova 2023b; Ducard 2017; Pickel & Rabern 2022

Bibliography

Abusch, Dorit. 2020. Possible-worlds semantics for pictures. In Daniel Gutzmann, Lisa Matthewson, Cécile Meier, Hotze Rullmann & Thomas Ede Zimmermann (eds.), *The Wiley Blackwell Companion to Semantics*, John Wiley & Sons, Inc. doi:10.1002/9781118788516.sem003.

Cohn, Neil. 2018. Combinatorial morphology in visual languages. In Geert Booij (ed.), *Construction of words*, vol. 4, 175–199. Springer, Cham. doi:10.1007/978-3-319-74394-3_7.

Cohn, Neil. 2020. Visual narrative comprehension: Universal or not? *Psychonomic Bulletin and Review* 2(27). 266–285. doi:10.3758/s13423-019-01670-1.

Cumming, Samuel, Gabriel Greenberg & Rory Kelly. 2017. Conventions of viewpoint coherence in film. *Philosophers' Imprint* 17(1). 1–29. http://hdl.handle.net/2027/spo.3521354.0017.001.

Ducard, Dominique. 2017. Language and the game of chess: Saussure, Hjelmslev, Wittgenstein and Greimas. *Semiotica* 214. 199–217. doi:10.1515/sem-2016-0201.

Esipova, Maria. 2019a. Composition and projection of co-speech gestures. In Katherine Blake, Forrest Davis, Kaelyn Lamp & Joseph Rhyne (eds.), *Proceedings of Semantics and Linguistic Theory (SALT)*, vol. 29, 117–137. doi:10.3765/salt.v29i0.4600.

Esipova, Maria. 2019b. Towards a uniform super-linguistic theory of projection. In Julian J. Schlöder, Dean McHugh & Floris Roelofsen (eds.), *Proceedings of the 22nd Amsterdam Colloquium*, 553–562. https://ling.auf.net/lingbuzz/004905.

Esipova, Maria. 2021. On not-at-issueness in pictures. *Glossa: A Journal of General Linguistics* 6(1). 83. doi:10.5334/gjgl.1314.

Esipova, Maria. 2023a. Discontinuity as prosody: Meaning and form of jump cuts on YouTube. *NYI Constellations* 1. https://lingbuzz.net/lingbuzz/007423.

Esipova, Maria. 2023b. Reps and representations: a warm-up to a grammar of lifting. *Linguistics and Philosophy* 46. 871–904. doi:10.1007/s10988-022-09372-z.

Esipova, Maria. 2024. Composure and composition. Ms., under revision. https://ling.auf.net/lingbuzz/005003.

Klomberg, Bien, Irmak Hacımusaoğlu, Lenneke Doris Lichtenberg, Joost Schilperoord & Neil Cohn. 2023. Continuity, co-reference, and inference in visual sequencing. *Glossa: a journal of general linguistics* 8(1). 1–43. doi:10.16995/glossa.9982.

Patel-Grosz, Pritty, Salvador Mascarenhas, Emmanuel Chemla & Philippe Schlenker. 2023. Super Linguistics: an introduction. *Linguistics and Philosophy* 46. 627–692. https://doi.org/10.1007/s10988-022-09377-8.

Pickel, Bryan & Brian Rabern. 2022. Scorekeeping in a chess game. *Semantics and Pragmatics* 15(12). 1–20. doi:10.3765/sp.15.12.

Schlenker, Philippe. 2018. Iconic pragmatics. *Natural Language & Linguistic Theory* 36(3). 877–936. doi:10.1007/s11049-017-9392-x.