

# *Pragmatics*

*FSEM CORE S119: Language as Human Nature*

*Fall 2025*

*Prof. Forrest Davis*

*October 30, 2025*

## Warm-up

1. It's spooky season. Discuss with your neighbor a fun idea for a Halloween costume.
2. Is the following conversation natural?
  - A: Do you know what the temperature is today?
  - B: Yes

## Logistics

- Registration is coming up relatively soon. Please start looking over the current course offerings for the spring.

## Learning Objectives

- Describe the aims of pragmatics
- Identify core speech acts and their syntactic structure
- Give Grice's Maxims and generate implicatures
- Uses tests for presuppositions

*Summary:* We survey some basic aspects of the study of pragmatics, like speech acts, Gricean Maxims, conversational implicatures, and presuppositions tests.

## *Outline*

1. What is pragmatics?
2. Speech Acts – what we do
3. Conversational Implicatures – what we mean
4. Presuppositions – what we assume

## Registration

REGISTRATION IS APPROACHING. We will meet next week. Find a time here: <https://calendar.app.google/NJoZA8rinPuH2xhz8>  
Prior to our meeting you **must** send me an email with answers to the following questions. If you do not email me ahead of our meeting, I will cancel our meeting. If we don't meet prior to registration, you will not be able to register for classes.

1. What is your hardest class this semester? What is your favorite class this semester?
2. What might you want to major in? This can be a few options if you are still considering.
3. If you aren't already taking a language, what language might you want to take while here at Colgate?
4. Create two distinct schedule plans. That is, two distinct plans with 4 classes (8 total classes) At least one class in each plan should be a CORE course. Send me a screenshot of your plans on the registration portal.
  - Watch this video for finding courses: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=624n5dCDfX4>
  - Watch this video for creating plans: <https://youtu.be/UL-DetZmuqw>

### Before Next Class

- Registration email and meeting!
- Pre-class quiz