Course Description (from calendar): None. The central theme of the course is the parallelism and interaction between aspect and number. However, not every subtopic of the course will be concerned with both aspect and number. Some parts of the course will deal with only one of the two domains.

Prerequisites and/or Course Restrictions (from calendar): no formal prerequisites; we’ll assume some familiarity with aspect and aktionsart (Vendler event classes), and with the basics of formal semantics

Course Objectives:
(i) To read and discuss classic and more recent papers on the semantics of aspect and number.
(ii) To present and discuss work in progress by the seminar participants.

Readings and Topics: See attached. We’ll cover these topics in the order given.

Course Schedule: We’ll draw up a schedule by next week, once we know who will present and on which topics.

Course Assignments, Grading:
- 2 squibs/short response paper 20% (10% each)
- 1 class presentation 20%
- research paper 50%
- active class participation 10%

Auditing: Students who plan to participate in the seminar on a regular basis should register as auditors in the course. Auditors are strongly encouraged to give a seminar presentation on their research in progress related to either number or aspect or both. Auditors will also have access to the WebCT site on which we’ll post class notes, some of the readings, and other course-related materials.
General Background Reading

Note: Most of these background readings were discussed last term in our joint course Ling 447: Time and Possibility in Language. We’ll make the course material for that course (including handouts that discuss the main points) available on the WebCT site for this course.

Must have read:

Also very useful:

a. Number and pluractionality

Note: An extensive bibliography on number will be made available through WebCT.

b. Events

c. Aspect

d. The progressive
Course Topics and Readings

* indicates articles that will definitely be discussed

1. Introduction; lattices

2. Link’s semantics for plurals and mass nouns

3. Events, cumulativity and quantization

4. Viewpoint aspect: the (im)perfective
Wilhelm, Andrea. Quasi-telic perfective aspect in Dene Suline (Chipewyan).
Note: A large list of articles on the (im)perfective can be found at: http://www.utsc.utoronto.ca/~binnick/TENSE/Perfectv.html

5. Bare nouns


6. Distributivity


6a. Dependent plurality


7. Verbal number / pluractionality


8. The perfect


Note: A large list of articles on the perfect can be found at these two webpages:
http://www.utsc.utoronto.ca/~binnick/TENSE/PerfAsp.html
http://www.scar.utoronto.ca/~binnick/TENSE/PerfTens.html

9. Number in pronouns
