LIN 4500: **Introduction to Syntax**
T 4, R 4-5
TUR 2350 (T), AND 0021 (R)

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Welcome
Science is full of stories, and in this class we're going to tell, hear, and live in the story of understanding the nature of human language. It turns out that syntax – how words are put together into larger phrases – is at the center of this story, and so we need to understand it better. To do that, we'll have to investigate the landscape of language – looking in unfamiliar places - in order to collect clues about the nature of this fascinating phenomenon. As we gather clues, we'll put them together to try and form a coherent picture of what syntax is all about and what roles it plays in language and maybe even in what it means to be human.

Course description:
This course focuses on introducing the basic ideas of syntactic phenomena and syntactic theory, central to understanding how languages organize words and morphemes into phrases. By looking at a variety of structures in English and other languages, we will uncover common principles of syntactic structure that languages share as well as the parameters along which they differ. We will also learn how to formally represent structures in insightful ways. Perhaps most importantly, this course will be an exercise in theory-construction and the nature of scientific inquiry.

Objectives
-Become familiar with various syntactic phenomena
-Learn the basic tools and principles of mainstream syntactic theory
-Learn how to work within a formal theory
-Develop argumentation and researching skills

Prerequisites
The prerequisites for this class are LIN 3010 (Introduction to Linguistics) and LIN 3460 (Structure of Human Language). Please talk to me if you have not taken both of these courses.

Laptop/Cell phone policy
Research has shown that multitasking with a laptop in class not only reducing a student's performance, but the performance of all the students sitting near them (see Sana et al 2013; http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0360131512002254). Therefore, laptop and cell phone use are not permitted in our class. If you have a compelling reason for an exception to this rule, please let me know.

Required Text:
Carnie, Andrew. 2021. *Syntax: A Generative Introduction (fourth edition*). [NOTE: It is important you get the fourth edition as there are substantial changes from the second edition and assignments refer to the book's numbering]. $50 on Amazon; $40 for the eTextbook version. I have not evaluated the latter. Note you do NOT need to get the companion workbook.

Other readings and assignments not from the textbook will be available on the course website.

Course website
Course website on Sakai: http://lss.at.ufl.edu/. You'll find the syllabus as well as reading, and any handouts or other relevant materials. Grades will also be posted on the website. You are responsible for checking the site regularly and letting me know *promptly* if your grade is entered incorrectly.

Grading
Grades are based on the following weights for class requirements:
Homework	40%
Papers	30% (10% each)
Exam	30%

The course grading scale is the one recommended by CLAS: Other info on UF grading policies can be found here: https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx

A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	E
90 or above	87-89	84-86	80-83	77-79	74-76	70-73	67-69	64-66	60-63	57-59	56 or below

Exams
There will be a single exam on the last day of class to test your understanding of the principles we have been covering as wellas your knowledge of basic syntactic phenomena. It will also have a takehome portion (due 12/10) which you must complete on your own without help from others.

Papers
There will be three short papers due throughout the semester in which you will present an analysis and discussion of a dataset that I will provide for you. You may discuss the data with your classmates, however, you may not work together on the papers. These papers will give you valuable experience in presenting a discussion of empirical facts and structuring a scientific argument. More details on how to write up your paper will be provided along with datasets.
        If you would like, you also have the option of replacing the third paper with a paper of your own. This paper should be short and should focus on the description and syntactic analysis of some particular linguistic phenomenon in a language that you speak or for which you have access to native speaker data and intuitions, and should discuss why the phenomenon is interesting from a linguistic perspective. **Choosing this option will earn 25 extra credit points, no matter the grade on the paper itself. Please let me know by 11/9 if you are choosing this option.**

Homework
There will be eight homework assignments due throughout the semester. We will typically discuss part of the homework in class, so late work cannot be accepted barring a documented emergency. **If you complete all eight homeworks, I will drop the lowest grade.**
        You are encouraged to discuss homeworks with other members of our current class, but you must write them up separately, completely on your own. No two homeworks should be exactly alike! And while I encourage you <u>not</u> to consult outside textual resources on your

homework, if you do use such sources, they should be cited. Give credit where it is due. Homeworks will be graded roughly without in-depth comment. If you have questions about homework questions that are not addressed in class, you are encouraged to discuss them with me during office hours.

   Homework should be typed, but you can insert hand-drawn trees. Whatever is hand-drawn/written must be clear. There are also several ways to generate trees:

  a. Use the 'draw' function in MS Word and draw lines into trees. Can be tedious
  b. Several online programs generate tree structures from bracketed notation:
    a. jsSyntaxTree: http:// http://ironcreek.net/syntaxtree
    b. RSyntaxTree: https://yohasebe.com/rsyntaxtree
    c. Mshang Tree generator: http://mshang.ca/syntree/
  c. You can also use this LaTeX tree Previewer: http://www.tlhiv.org/ltxpreview/
   For this option, you will need the instructional handout, which I'll post in our course files.

Homework must be turn into electronically in pdf format in a single file via Canvas before the class in which it is due. You must also bring a copy with you to class for discussion purposes.

Attendance and Participation
While not an explicit part of your grade, attendance and participation in class are essential to success in this class. Every class will build on the previous one, making it easy to fall behind. Coming to class and engaging the material will help assure that doesn't happen. However, if at any time you feel you are not fully understanding the material, please do not hesitate to email me, come see me in office hours, or make an appointment.

Academic Honesty
Cheating, plagiarism, and other acts of academic misconduct have no place here and won't be tolerated. Committing such an act will result in a report to the Dean of Students and an E for the course. If you have any question about what does and do not count as an act of academic misconduct, please consult the University Honor Code http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/honorcodes/honorcode.php and talk with your instructor.

Accommodations
Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center. Click here to get started with the Disability Resource Center. It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

Evaluations
Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/.

Recording Policy
Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for

personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor.

A "class lecture" is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or lecturer during a class session.

Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To "publish" means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.

Tentative Schedule
This schedule is subject to change based on the pace of the class.

Week	Dates	Topics	Work	Readings
1	8/24	Fundamentals		Chp 1-3
2	8/29, 8/31	Fundamentals		Chp 1-4
3	9/5, 9/7	Trees and Hierarchical relations	**HW1 due 9/5**	Chp 4
4	9/12, 9/14	X-bar theory		Chp 6-7
5	9/19, 9/21	X-bar and functional categories	**HW2 due 9/19**	Chp 6-7
6	9/26, 9/28	Theta Theory and Selection	**HW3 due 9/26**	Chp 8-9
7	10/3, 10/5	Binding Theory	**HW4 due 10/3; Paper #1 due 10/5**	Chp 5, 17
8	10/10, 10/12	Binding		Chp 5, 17
9	10/17, 10/19	Head Movement	**HW5 due 10/17**	Chp 10
10	10/24, **10/26 - No Class**	Argument Movement		Chp 11, 15
11	10/31, 11/2	Argument Movement; raising and control	**HW 6 due 10/31**	Chp 11, 15
12	11/7	Wh Movement	**Paper #2 due 11/7**	Chp 12

	11/9			
13	11/14, 11/16	Movement wrap up; Ellipsis	**HW7 due 11/14**	
14	11/21 **11/23 –No class**	VP syntax and event structure		Chp 13
15	11/28, 11/30	VP syntax; minimalism; review	**HW8 due 11/28; Paper #3 due 11/30**	Chp 13, 14
16	12/5	In-class exam	**Exam; take home portion due 12/10 on Canvas**	

Campus Health and Wellness Resources

U Matter, We Care: If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu, 352-392-1575, or visit U Matter, We Care website to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.

Counseling and Wellness Center: Visit the Counseling and Wellness Center website or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.

Student Health Care Center: Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or visit the Student Health Care Center website.

University Police Department: Visit UF Police Department website or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).

UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center: For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; Visit the UF Health Emergency Room and Trauma Center website.

GatorWell Health Promotion Services: For prevention services focused on optimal wellbeing, including Wellness Coaching for Academic Success, visit the GatorWell website or call 352-273-4450.

Academic Resources
E-learning technical support: Contact the UF Computing Help Desk at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at helpdesk@ufl.edu.

Career Connections Center: Reitz Union Suite 1300, 352-392-1601. Career assistance and counseling services.

Library Support: Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.

Teaching Center: Broward Hall, 352-392-2010 or to make an appointment 352- 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring.

Writing Studio: 2215 Turlington Hall*, 352-846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.

Student Complaints On-Campus: Visit the Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code webpage for more information.

On-Line Students Complaints: View the Distance Learning Student Complaint Process.