LIN 4500: **Introduction to Syntax**

T 5-6, R 6
MAT 0117

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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 foruth 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.

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.

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 not 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 either very neatly handwritten or typed. If you handwrite them, your work must be organized and clear. If written in pencil, make sure it is not too light. If you type your assignment, you can either handwrite the trees in or you can use one of 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 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 e-mail 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.

Other Issues
I would like to hear from anyone who has a disability which may require some modification in seating, testing, or other class requirements. Please contact me in any way that is comfortable for you so that appropriate arrangements can be made. Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation. http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc.

Tentative Schedule
This schedule is subject to change based on the pace of the class. Homeworks assigned are due the Monday of the following week in class. GP = General Problem set; CP = Challenge Problem set (both from Carnie).

Week	Dates	Topics	Work	Readings
1	8/24, 8/26	Fundamentals		Chp 1-3
2	8/31, 9/2	Fundamentals	**HW1 due 9/2**	Chp 1-4
3	9/7, 9/9	Trees and Hierarchical relations	**HW2 due 9/9**	Chp 4
4	9/14, 9/16	X-bar theory		Chp 6-7
5	9/21, 9/23	X-bar and functional categories	**HW3 due 9/23**	Chp 6-7
6	9/28, 9/30	Theta Theory and Selection		Chp 8-9

7	10/5, 10/7	Binding Theory	**HW4 due 10/5; Paper #1 due 10/7**	Chp 5, 17
8	10/12, 10/14	10/11 Review + Midterm 10/13 More Binding	**Midterm 10/12**	Chp 5, 17
9	10/19, 10/21	Head Movement	**HW5 due 10/19**	Chp 10
10	10/26, 10/28	Wh Movement		Chp 12
11	11/2, 11/4	Argument Movement	**HW6 due 11/2**	Chp 11, 15
12	11/9 11/11	Argument Movement; raising and control	**Paper #2 due 11/9**	Chp 11, 15
13	11/16, 11/18	Movement wrap up; Ellipsis	**HW 7 due 11/16**	
14	11/23, **11/25 –No class**	VP syntax and event structure		Chp 13
15	11/30, 12/2	VP syntax; minimalism; review	**HW8 due 12/2; Paper #3 due 12/2**	Chp 13, 14
16	12/7	In-class exam	**Exam; take home portion due 12/10 by 5pm**	

Homework Assignments

HW1: Chapter 1: CP 2, 3
Chapter 2: GP 6, CP 1, 2
Chapter 3: GP 6 (a-c, n-p), 7, 12, 15

HW2: Chp 3: CP 1, 2
Chp 4: GP 8 (3-6), 11, 15, CP 3

HW3: Chp 6: GP 1, 4, 5, 7 (a-e)
Chp 7: GP 1, 3, 6(e-h); CP 1

HW4 Chp 8: GP 3 (g-m), 4, 5 (a-c, f-g); CP 4, 6
Chp 9: GP 1, 6, 9 (a,e, g)

HW5: Chp 5: GP 2, 4; CP 1, 4
Chp 17: GP 3, CP 3

HW6: Chp 10: GP 1, 2, 5, 8; CP 2
Chp 12: GP 1 (a,b,f,g,h,n,o,t), 6, CP 2

HW7: Chp 11: GP 1, 2, 9, 10, CP 2, 3, 4
Chp 15: GP 1, 5 (a-f); CP 1, 3

HW8: Chp 13: GP 2; CP 1, 3
Chp 14: GP 5 (a-d), 6; CP 2