LIN4500 Introduction to Syntax
M, W, F 11:45-12:35 (5ᵗʰ)
@Matherly 151

Instructor: Marcin Dadan
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Office hours: M: 6ᵗʰ, W:6ᵗʰ, Fr: 6ᵗʰ and by appointment.
Office: TBA

Course Description

This course is an introduction to generative syntax. Looking at the data from English and other languages, we study formal properties of human language. Focusing on the word order possibilities and constraints cross-linguistically, we will model the basic properties of human language, as rule governed, complex and sophisticated system open to scientific inquiry. We will use scientific method to make generalizations about the observed language phenomena, postulate the theory to account for them and develop syntactic tools to formally represent it.

Objectives

By the end of the course you should:
-Become familiar with various syntactic phenomena
-Learn the basic tools and principles of generative syntax
-Lean how to work within a formal theory
-Develop argumentation and research skills

Required Text:

Carnie, Andrew. 2012. *Syntax: A Generative Introduction (Third edition).* Blackwell.

Requirements and Grading:

Course requirements		Numerical score/letter grade conversion					
Homework	50%	90-100	A	77-79	B-	64-66	D+
Mid-term	20%	87-89	A-	74-76	C+	60-63	D
Final	30%	84-86	B+	70-73	C	57-59	D-
		80-83	B	67-69	C-	Below 57	E

Homeworks

There will be 6 homeworks throughout the semester. Homeworks must be submitted on the day they are due. Ideally, in the class. We will discuss the homeworks in the class after I have graded them. Homeworks can be typed (and printed out in pdf format) or hand written (make sure I can read your handwriting. If it's too challenging, I may ask you to type the answers next time).

You are more than welcome to come to discuss the homeworks with me during my office hours.

You may discuss your solutions with other students (in fact this is encouraged), but each homework must be the result of an individual effort, i.e., you cannot simply copy somebody else's solutions; it certainly won't help you during the exams.

Most of the problems on the homeworks will be very challenging, but I would like you to come up with the solutions based on Carnie's textbook, our lecture notes, and your own creativity. Do not consult other syntax books! Even if your solutions are wrong (or different from those of other students), I will give you points for creativity and attempt to solve them, don't worry! I want to see that you are trying! (After all, this is the nature of science that most of the solutions we have today will be revised in the future. Maybe you will solve some of the problems we are struggling with today).

Exams
There will be two exams: Mid-term and the final exam. The date of the final exam will be announced later.

Attendance and Participation
Attendance in the class is essential to succeed on the exams and homeworks. The class will involve a lot of practical exercises which will help you to both understand the material in the book, as well as feel confident about working with data and using syntactic tools.

Academic Honesty
Cheating, plagiarism, and other acts of academic misconduct 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:
https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/

Students with disabilities
Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the UF Disability Resource Center (352.392.8565) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodations. Please, follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

More information at: https://disability.ufl.edu

Tentative Schedule (Subject to changes depending on the pace of the class. We don't have to rush so make sure you are following the material and always stop me if you don't! We can take some more time for some more challenging parts)

Week	Dates	Topics	Chapters	Notes/Work
1	August 21, 23	Intro, Foundational issues	Ch 1-2	
2	August 26, 28, 30	Constituency, trees, rules, structural relations	Ch 3-4	
3	September (no 2), 4, (6?)	Binding Theory	Ch 5	**HW1 DUE 09/04**
4	September 9,11,13	X'-theory	Ch 6	
5	September 16,18,20	Extending X'-theory	Ch 7	
6	September 23,25,27	Constraining X'-theory: Theta theory	Ch 8	**HW2 DUE:09/23**
7	September 30, Oct 2, (no 4th)	Auxiliaries and Functional categories	Ch 9	
8	October 7,9,11	Review + Midterm	Ch1-9	**HW3 DUE:10/07 +MIDTERM**
9	October 14,16,18	Head Movement + DP movement	Ch 10-11	
10	October 21,23,25	DP movement + Wh-movement	Ch 11-12	**HW4 DUE: 10/21**
11	October 28,30, November 1	Wh-movement & Crosslinguistic variation	Ch 12-13	
12	November 4,6,8	Movement & Ellipsis	Ch 16	
13	November (no 11),13,15	Raising, Control, empty categories	Ch 15	**HW5 DUE:11/13**
14	November 18,20,22	VP-structure	Ch 14	
15	November 25, (no 27, no 29)	Polysynthesis, Incorporation, Scrambling	Ch 18	
16	December 2,4,(no 6)	Review	Ch 10-18	**HW6: Due: 11/13**
17	FINAL EXAM TBD			TBD

Homeworks
(from Carnie's book: **GPS-** General Problem set; **CPS**-Challenge Problem set) (These can get slightly revised, too).

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HW1(Ch 1-4):	Ch1	CPS 2, CPS 3
	Ch 2	GPS 6, GPS 10
	Ch 3	GPS 6 (a,d,o,p), GSP 7, GPS 12, GPS 13
	Ch 4	GPS 8 (3-6), GPS 15.
HW2 (Ch 5-7)	Ch 5	GPS 2, GPS 4, CPS 1
	Ch 6	GPS 1, GPS 4, GPS 7
	Ch 7	GP 1, GPS 3, CPS 1
HW3 (Ch 8-9)	Ch 8	GPS 1, GPS 3 (g, h, k, m), GPS 5(a,b,c,f), CPS 4
	Ch 9	GPS 6, GPS 8(a-d)
HW4 (Ch 10-11)	Ch 10	GPS 2, GPS 5, GPS 7, CPS 2
	Ch 11	GPS 1, GPS 2, GPS 5, CPS 2, CPS 4
HW5 (Ch 12, 13, 16)	Ch 12	GPS 1 (a,b,f,g,h,i,o,t), GPS 5, CPS 2
	Ch 13	CPS 1, CPS 3
	Ch 16	GPS 1
HW6 (Ch 15, 14, 18)	Ch 14	GPS 5 (a-d), CPS 1
	Ch 15	GPS 1, GPS 5(a-d), CPS 1, CPS 3 (part 1)
	Ch 18	GPS 1, GPS 3