

## LIN 4930/6932 Syntax Seminar: The Syntax of Nominals

T 2 - 3, Th 3

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### **Course Description**

This course is a focused investigation of the syntax of noun phrases, building on LIN 4500/6501. Topics to be covered include

- the DP Hypothesis
- the structure of noun phrases: functional projections, word order, nominal-internal movement
- dependents in the noun phrase (possessors, demonstratives, adjectival modifiers, relative clauses, classifiers)
- movement phenomena related to noun phrases (e.g. extraction from noun phrases, phasehood)

### **Objectives**

- further develop analytical skills and syntactic argumentation
- update theoretical understanding to the current Minimalist Program machinery
- explore the syntax of typologically diverse languages
- engage the primary literature
- conduct original syntactic research

### **Prerequisites**

LIN 4500/6501 (Introduction to Syntax or Syntax 1)

### **Materials**

All the reading materials, handouts, and assignments are available on Canvas, <https://lss.at.ufl.edu>. The following book will be available as a general survey of the topic:

Alexiadou, Artemis, Liliane Haegeman, and Melita Stavrou. 2007. *Noun phrase in the generative perspective*. Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter.

### **Requirements**

- homework 30%
- practice exercises 10%
- research paper 40%
- presentation 20%

0. *Preparation*. Although attendance is not part of your grade, regular attendance, participation, and thoughtful completion of the readings and at-home exercises are important. Please set aside enough time to do class preparation thoroughly.

1. *Homeworks.* There will be two homeworks. They are due on **February 7** and **February 28**. These will focus on applying the early class material to new data. You may discuss the homeworks with other members of the class but the write up must be done entirely on your own. If you consult outside materials, they must be properly acknowledged and cited.

2. *Practice exercises.* There will be occasional at home exercises to aid you in thinking about and applying the class material. We will discuss selected exercises in class, and I may ask you to turn in one or more problems from each set through Canvas. Practice exercises will be graded on a satisfactory-unsatisfactory basis.

3. *Research paper.* The research-related work for this course consists of a final paper. It is due on **April 28** and should be approximately 20-25 pages in length. The text should be double spaced. All other material, such as footnotes, example sentences, trees, and references should be single spaced. The margins should be 1" with 12pt Times (New Roman) font.

Two of the most challenging aspects of a final paper are finding a topic and not waiting until the last minute to write the paper. Please be on the lookout for a topic early. You must meet with me to discuss your topic by **March 12** and provide a short, written summary. This will be 7.5% of the paper grade. You will meet with me again no later than **April 9** to provide a progress update on your paper. This will be another 7.5% of the paper grade.

4. *Presentation.* You will be required to present one reading to the class. Various papers and topics have been set aside for this. Most of them are scheduled midway through the semester or near the end of the semester. See the course schedule. A list of articles for presentation is on Canvas under Pages. You may suggest something else, as long as it fits in with what we will be discussing and will be generally accessible to the other students. For example, you can present an article related to your paper topic. Please check with me. At the Canvas page, there is a list of papers with a short overview of the content of each paper. Please edit the Presentation Schedule Page in Canvas to add your name to one of the slots.

Presentations should use a handout and/or slides and engage the class in discussion. You will have a full 50 minutes for your article but should plan on a presentation that is no longer than about 30 minutes, allowing time for discussion and questions, either during the presentation or at the end. You must have a preliminary handout or slides four days prior to your presentation that you can go over with me. We will work together to modify them as necessary, so you should plan on revising them before the date of your presentation. The consultation constitutes 30% of the presentation grade and will be evaluated based on preparedness.

### **Grading**

Homeworks, the paper, and the presentation will be graded on the following criteria, as appropriate: i) organization, ii) clarity, iii) understanding and use of syntactic theory, iv) argumentation, v) originality, vi) content. A Style Sheet with guidelines for written work is available on Canvas. Work will be graded using the letter scale below. The corresponding numerical score on a one hundred point scale is given.

A	96	excellent	C+	78	D	65	marginal work
A-	92		C	75	D-	62	satisfactory
B+	88		C-	72	E	30	unsatisfactory
B	85	good	D+	68		0	missing work
B-	82						

The course grading scale is as follows:

A	94 – 100	B	84 – 86.9	C	74 – 76.9	D	64 – 66.9
A-	90 – 93.9	B-	80 – 83.9	C-	70 – 73.9	D-	60 – 63.9
B+	87 – 89.9	C+	77 – 79.9	D+	67 – 69.9	E	< 60

Further information about UF's grading policies and the calculation of grade point averages is at <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/>.

### **Other**

*Communication.* Most of our one-on-one communication will occur via Canvas mail although I am happy to meet in person or on Zoom. I expect that you are reading your email at least once per day.

*Missed/Late Work and Absences.* You should assume that late work will not be accepted. All requests for exceptions due to illness, religious obligations, unexpected emergencies, or other extenuating circumstances must be made before the work due date if at all possible. Absences are considered excused only after you have provided documentation of a conflict that is explicitly covered in the UF Attendance Policy (<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/>). If you are unable to provide documentation, you may be able to have your absence excused by the Dean of Students Office in extenuating circumstances. All other absences are considered unexcused.

*Academic honesty.* Academic misconduct, including but not limited to cheating and plagiarism, will not be tolerated. It may result in disciplinary action and an E for the course. The University has an Honor Code, which reads as follows: "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity". You can read all about it at <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/>. The bottom line is "On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment." This includes relying on another student's work from a previous instantiation of this course. Do not use others' work in this class.

Copying or sharing any part of your homework assignments in any way, shape, or form is strictly prohibited. For computer work, this includes, but is not limited to, using the same file/document as someone else, using a modified file/document, or copying information between files/documents. No written work may be a joint effort in any way unless explicitly permitted and acknowledged.

*Computer Access.* The University requires that you have access to and on-going use of a computer. This should not be a tablet device or smartphone, but an actual desktop or laptop computer. Minimum equipment specifications are available at: <https://it.ufl.edu/policies/student-computing-requirements/>.

*Netiquette.* Please be respectful of your classmates.

- Zoom in on time or a few minutes early if possible.
- Find a quiet indoor space with a stable internet connection to attend class. Make sure you are uninterrupted by other household members, including pets.

- When you are assigned to a breakout room, enable your webcam and microphone so that your partners may hear and see who they are working with.
- Be aware of your surroundings. Everyone sees what is behind you. Make sure the background is not distracting or something you would not want your classmates to see.
- Dress appropriately for class. Remember, everyone can see you.
- Follow the same rules of respectful interaction as you would in a face-to-face course.

*Accommodations for students with disabilities.* Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the Disability Resource Center by visiting <https://disability.ufl.edu/students/get-started/>. 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. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via the evaluation system at <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at the public results website at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

*Campus resources.* The following health and wellness resources are available to students:

U Matter, We Care, [umatter@ufl.edu](mailto:umatter@ufl.edu), 392-1575

Counseling & Wellness Center, <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx>, 392-1575

University Police Department, <http://www.police.ufl.edu>, 392-1111

Dean of Students office, <http://dso.ufl.edu/>, 392-1261

Disability Resource Center, <https://disability.ufl.edu/students/get-started/>,  
[DRCaccessUF@ufsa.ufl.edu](mailto:DRCaccessUF@ufsa.ufl.edu), 392-8565

Multicultural and Diversity Affairs, <https://multicultural.ufl.edu>, 294-7850

Office of Student Veteran Services, [vacounselor@ufl.edu](mailto:vacounselor@ufl.edu), <http://veterans.ufl.edu>, 294-2948

### Schedule

The schedule below gives an idea of the topics we will cover. It is somewhat tentative, as I am constantly trying to find more readable papers and the most interesting topics. Please see Canvas for the latest schedule, including readings, handouts, and practice exercises.

The optional/advanced reading is for those who have more syntactic expertise and/or would like more information on the day's topic. These readings are generally more challenging, and we will not go over them in class.

Readings that are suitable for Presentations are in [blue](#).

DAY	TOPIC	READING	OPTIONAL/ADVANCED READING
<b>Nominal structure</b>			
Jan. 12	syllabus, generative grammar architecture		
14	phrase structure	Fukui & Narita 2014	Hornstein, Nunes, and Grohmann 2005:ch. 6
19	NP structure	Radford 1988:167-216	Jackendoff 1981:57-86, 103-136
21	practice exercises		
26	DP Hypothesis	Abney 1987:14-29, 30-36, 54-68, 71-88	Abney 1987:89-164
28	Case, agreement, Agree	Abney 1987:37-53	
Feb. 2	elements in the D° projection	Abney 1987:265-297, Taraldsen 1990	
4	practice exercises <b>HW 1 due (Feb. 7, 11:59pm)</b>		
9	against the DP Hypothesis	Bruening 2009	
11		Bruening 2020a	Bruening 2020b
16	other functional projections in DP: NumP	<a href="#">Ritter 1991</a>	Shlonsky 2004, Preminger 2020
18	the left periphery	Shlonsky 2010	
23	the DP left periphery, practice exercises	<a href="#">Aboh 2004</a>	Laenzlinger 2017
25	NO CLASS <b>HW 2 due (Feb. 28, 11:59pm)</b>		
<b>Dependents in DP</b>			
March 2	introduction to DP dependents, adjectives	<a href="#">Sproat &amp; Shih 1987</a>	
4	adjectives	<a href="#">Cinque 1994</a>	Scott 2002
9	adjectives, practice exercises	<a href="#">Cinque 2010:ch. 1-2</a>	

11	adjectives <b>Paper topic due (March 12, 11:59pm)</b>	Cinque 2010:ch. 3-4	Cinque 2010:appendix
16	adjectives	Cinque 2010:ch. 5	Cinque 2010:ch. 6
18	demonstratives	Brugè 2002	Bernstein 1997
23	relative clauses		
25	relative clauses		
30	relative clauses, practice exercises	Cinque 2020	
<b>DPs and Movement Locality</b>			
April 1	islands, Subjacency		
6	successive cyclic movement, phases, Is DP a phase?	Citko 2014:108-123	
8	TBD <b>Paper progress check (April 9, 11:59pm)</b>	TBD	
13	TBD	TBD	
15	TBD	TBD	
20	TBD	TBD	
April 28	<b>Paper due, 5pm</b>		