

Linguistics 801-4
Introduction to Syntax
Panayiotis A. Pappas

Class Hours: Tuesday, Thursday 10:30-12:20
Office Hours: Tuesday Thursday 1:00-2:30 pm, and by appointment

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Course Description

This course will provide an introduction to current syntactic theory by examining a number of syntactic phenomena and the theoretical approaches that attempt to interpret them.. We will look at both the Principles and Parameters/Minimalist and the HPSG frameworks. Some of the issues that will be covered are the nature of heads and complements, passivization, raising and control, wh-dependencies, and island constraints. The goal of the course is to give students an overview of the evolution of thought in generative syntax and its major accomplishments in a unified approach that focuses on the data without favoring any particular approach.

Textbook

Robert Borsley. 1999. Syntactic Theory: a unified approach. 2nd edition, Arnold.
A number of readings to be distributed during the semester.

Grading

Participation: 15%
Homeworks: 25%
Midterm: 25%
Final: 35%

Grading Scale

A+ 90-100, A 85-89, A- 80-84
B+ 77-79, B 74-76, B- 70-73
C+ 67-69, C 64-66 C- 60-63
D 50-59, F 49 and below

Homeworks: There are five homeworks assigned every two weeks (approximately). Each homework will be distributed on a Thursday and will be due the following Tuesday. No late homeworks will be accepted.

Midterm: The midterm is a take-home exam. It too will be distributed on a Thursday and collected on the following Tuesday. If there are any attenuating circumstances, supported by sufficient evidence, then arrangements can be made for a different due date.

Final exam: The final exam is also a take-home. It is a comprehensive exam, so students will have a full week to turn it in. If sufficient progress is made, then the final may become a final paper in the form of a squib. The due date will be set later in the semester.

Co-operation: Students are allowed and indeed encouraged to co-operate on homework assignments. However, every student must write-up their answers independently. On the other hand, for the midterm and final examination, students must not co-operate on, or

discuss the problems assigned. Finally, students are encouraged to contact the professor with any questions they may have, as soon as they arise. Even the most trivial-seeming question may be important.

Course Schedule (Subject to change)

Week	Dates	Topics and reading assignments
1	09/ 3, 5	Introduction, Questionnaire
2	09/ 10, 12	Goals of syntactic theory, The collection of data. B-1, handout
3	09/ 17, 19	Constituency. The structure of sentences and how to probe it. B-2 Homework 1
4	09/ 24, 26	Syntactic Rules and Categories. B-3, 4
5	10/ 1, 3	Heads and Complements. B-5 Homework 2
6	10/ 8, 10	Subjects and Predicates. B-6 Midterm distributed
7	10/ 15, 17	Anaphora. B-7 Handout
8	10/ 22, 24	Passives. B-10 Homework 3
9	10/ 29, 31	Raising. B-11 handout
10	11/ 5, 7	Control. B-12 handout Homework 4
11	11/ 12, 14	Wh-dependencies. B-13 handout
12	11/ 19, 21	Island constraints. B-14 handout Homework 5
13	11/ 26, 28	Review.

NB: Due to a scheduling conflict we may lose the 2nd hour of the Thursday session on one or two occasions. Should this happen we will need to reschedule to cover for the lost class time.