DEPARTMENT OF LINGUISTICS
Spring Term 2015 [1151]

LINGUISTICS 812-4
Topics in Linguistics III:
Syntax in the Mind

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COURSE DESCRIPTION:
This course is provides an introduction and overview of the experimental linguistic subfield
known as human sentence processing---the cognitive mechanisms that underlie how hearers
and readers parse and interpret incoming linguistic structures. We will read and discuss
scientific articles. Students will be required to present these articles as well as conduct a mini-
experiment of their own on a chosen syntactic phenomena in a chosen language.

REQUIRED TEXTS:
• None. Readings will be made available.

TENTATIVE COURSE GRADING:
Homework Assignments 20%
Quizzes 20%
Presentations 20%
Paper 35%
Attendance and participation 5%

Note: To receive a passing grade on any assignment, the quality of writing must be evaluated as at least LPI Level Four. The following descriptions of LPI levels will be used:

Level Four: The writing is marred by one or another of a fairly wide range of deficiencies: it may be thinly developed, repetitive, or weak in overall structure; it may contain unvaried, loose or faulty sentence structure; its word choice may be inaccurate, inappropriate, or unidiomatic (that is, it may use expressions that are not found in standard English usage).

Level Three: Essays are placed at level three if they have many errors in sentence structure and vocabulary, or if they are weak in content and badly organized. Also placed at level three are essays with a high density of errors in the use of articles, the plurals of nouns, the form and tense of verbs, subject-verb agreement, and the English idiom.

Students should familiarize themselves with the Department's Standards on Class Management and Student Responsibilities at http://www.sfu.ca/linguistics/undergraduate/student-resources/department-standards.html#main_content_text.

Please note that a grade of “FD” may be assigned as a penalty for academic dishonesty.
All student requests for accommodations for their religious practices must be made in writing by the end of the first week of classes or no later than one week after a student adds a course.

Students requiring accommodations as a result of a disability must contact the Centre for Students with Disabilities (778-782-3112 or csdo@sfu.ca).