Introduction to Syntax
Ling 522
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1 Goals

The primary goal of the course is to acquaint students with the basic goals and methodology of syntactic theory, in the process giving them an introduction to one very influential approach.

2 Practice

The course will use the textbook *Syntax: A Generative Introduction* http://www.blackwellpublishing.com/carnie, by Andrew Carnie, available in the campus bookstore. There will be exercises for most of the chapters covered. Please be sure to get the *Third Edition*.

The course begins with an introduction to constituents and trees, introduces some structural concepts such as dominance and C-Command, and then develops some applications such as the Binding Theory, and some theoretical hypotheses, such as X-Bar Theory.

The meat of the course is then a treatment of movement of various kinds, including head movement and NP movement.
A virtue of the text is that examples and exercises from numerous languages are used, affording the student the opportunity to evaluate some of the claims made about the universality of the theory.

3 Pre-requisites

Ling 420 or 501.

4 Grading

Grading will be based on exercises and take-home midterms and finals.

- Midterm 30%
- Final 30%
- Exercises: 30%
- Class participation: 10%

Many homeworks are graded loosely, especially at the beginning of the course, since they are regarded as learning experiences. However, the one aspect that homeworks will not be graded loosely on is examples. When you are asked to produce an example of a phenomenon you must create a sentence or word or phrase (whatever is asked for) that meets the requirements.

5 Late Assignments

The general structure of the course is not well-suited to late assignments. Assignment solutions will be discussed in detail on the day they are turned in, and thus students who turn assignments in late will be at an advantage. However, to allow for some flexibility, late assignments will receive partial credit. Here is the lateness policy:

1. Up to one week late: 50
2. More than one week late: not accepted
6 Group Work

Group work is encouraged on the assignments. The midterm and final should be completed without any help. To be clear on this, collaboration or group work on the midterms and finals will be considered cheating.

When turning in collaborative assignments, your collaborators should be identified on your paper.

One option to explore with respect to group work:

You may wish to change groups in mid-semester. This is a good idea. I encourage existing groups to admit new members. Moving around will help you get to know more people and you will probably learn more. On the other hand, if you find a group that is a good fit, there is no requirement that you leave it.

7 Attendance

Attendance is not a formal part of your grade.

However, be aware that participation is, so do the math. Also, hints on how to solve problems on the assignments, the midterms, and the final are handed out liberally in class. These hints will not be posted on the web page. Since the problems can be challenging and the hints can be of great help, problems stemming from non-attendance can cascade.

8 Office Hours

Mo 2:30-3:30
Tu,Th 11:00-12:00
by appointment
9 Mailing address

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10 Weekly Syllabus

The table below gives an approximate schedule of classes, assignments, and lectures for this course. On days that are shaded gray, class does not meet.
Week one

Chapter 1, Chapter 2 No exercises from chapter 1; From Chapter 2: Exercises 1, 6 and Challenge Problems 1 and 2. Generative Syntax lecture. Glossary of syntax terms.

Week two

H'day

Week three

Chapter 2. Parts of speech Chapter 3. Constituency 4d-h,q, r, 8, Challenge Problems 2, 3, Chapter 3.

Week four


Week five

Chapter 3 review. Constituency, Chapter 3 Exercises: More constituents problems

Week six

Conference

Week seven

Chapter 5. The Binding Theory; Anaphors, pronouns, and R-expressions Chapter 5 Exercises: Problems 2, 4; Challenge problem 4, 6

Week eight

Chapter 6. Xbar Syntax Exercises, p.190-196. Problem 1a, b, d; 3; 7a, c, d, e, k; Challenge Problem 4.

Week nine


Week ten

Chapter 7: Advanced Xbar Syntax; Introducing Functional heads: CP, TP, DP Midterm.

Week eleven


Week twelve

Chapter 8. The Lexicon Chapter 8: Exercises 2, 3, 4, Challenge 4 Complements and Adjuncts

Week thirteen

Chapter 9. Head to head movement Chapter 9: Exercises 1, 2, 7, 9b, d, e, f (draw S-structure trees, not D-Structure), Challenge 2, 3. 2007 Midterm answers

Week fourteen

Chapter 10. DP Movement Exercises 1 (draw S-structure trees, not D-Structure), 2, 4, 5, 6, 9 DP Movement lecture.

Week fifteen

Chapter 11. Wh Movement Exercises 1[a, b, c, d, h, j, k, o, p, q] (draw S-structure trees, not D-Structure) 5, 6, Challenge 1, 2, 3 Movement.