

Syllabus for Linguistics 120
Introduction to Syntax
Autumn 2010

Course Meetings

Class time: MWF 10:00-10:50
Class location: Art2

Instructor: Hannah Rohde

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Office Hours: Wednesday 11-12

TA: Jason Grafmiller

Office: 460-122
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Office Hours: Thursday, time TBD
Section Time/Location: TBD

What's this course all about?

This course is an introduction to the basic concepts of modern syntactic theory through the development of a rigorous grammar of a substantial fragment of English. We will analyze data from a variety of languages (but mostly English) in order to construct a theory of syntax. The goal will be to build a (partial) model of the (speaker's internal) grammar and at the same time to discuss what aspects of that grammar may be found across the world's languages. In addition to building up a particular theory, this course will provide you with a basic toolbox that will serve as a foundation for pursuing research and further courses in syntax.

The primary focus of this class is on learning how to do syntax. You will learn terminology, facts, and the machinery required for a particular theory of syntax, but more importantly, the aim is for you to use the basic concepts, skills, methodology, and analytical and abstract thinking that are necessary to do formal linguistics. The focus in assignments will be on solving problems and providing logical arguments, not on memorizing a particular system. The motivation for this is that theories change, but having skills such as identifying linguistic generalizations, applying tests, providing logical argumentation, and testing predictions of hypotheses will always be crucial to doing syntax.

Prerequisites

There are no official prerequisites, though being 'formally oriented' will give you an advantage.

Format

Lectures, discussion

Website:

Coursework. You can access course information by going to <http://coursework.stanford.edu/>

Textbook

The textbook is available in the bookstore: Sag, Ivan A., Thomas Wasow, and Emily M. Bender. 2003. *Syntactic Theory - A formal introduction* **2nd Edition**. Stanford: CSLI Publications.

Please be sure you are **not** using the first edition (Sag and Wasow 1999).

Section

Time/location for section will be decided during the first week. Section meetings will be for going over material not adequately covered in class, answering questions about the homework, and review. No new material (or at least none that you will be held responsible for) will be introduced in sections.

Assessment

There will be weekly assignments, a midterm, and a final. The last assignment before the final will involve working individually or in a group to investigate syntactic properties of a language (of your choosing) other than English. Findings will be presented in class during the last week of class.

Course Component	% of Final Grade
Assignments (8)	60%
Midterm	15%
Final	25%

We may adjust upwards half a letter grade for class or section participation.

Polcicis, Workload, Grading, etc.

1. Keep up with class. Readings should be completed prior to the day for which they are listed.
2. Hand in your work on time. Homework is due at the beginning of the lecture on the day indicated on the syllabus (always a Friday). Homeworks submitted late without prior approval will be penalized—homeworks submitted later in the day on Friday will lose 10% credit; those received in class on Monday will lose 25%, and no late homeworks will be accepted beyond that. Never leave homeworks in the mailbox of the TA or instructor without explicit prior approval to do so.
3. Hand in easy-to-grade homework. Be sure to write your name on your homework and to staple multiple pages. If you write up HWs by hand, write neatly. Illegible answers will be treated as false ones. Also, make sure you leave large margins so that we can write comments.
4. Work collaboratively on assignments. You are encouraged to discuss the weekly problem sets in groups, though you must write up your homework hand-ins individually, noting who your collaborators were.
5. Work alone on exams. The midterm and the final will be take-home, open-book, and open notes. **No group discussion of the midterm or final exam is permitted.**
6. Allot time. Expect to spend on the order of 10 hours per week on the reading and HWs.

Notice to students with disabilities

Students with documented disabilities: Students who have a disability which may necessitate an academic accommodation or the use of auxiliary aids and services in a class must initiate the request with the Disability Resource Center (DRC). The DRC will evaluate the request with required documentation, recommend appropriate accommodations, and prepare a verification letter dated in the current academic term in which the request is being made. Please contact the DRC as soon as possible; timely notice is needed to arrange for appropriate accommodations. The DRC is located at 563 Salvatierra Walk (phone 723-1066; TDD 725-1067). See <http://www.stanford.edu/group/DRC/> for more information.

Course Schedule (This page may be updated periodically)

Date	Topics	Reading	Due
9/20	Introductory remarks; Organizational matters	Ch 1	
9/22	Phrase Structure Grammar	Ch 2	
9/24	Feature Structures	Ch 3: 3.1–3.3.4	HW 1 due
9/27	Head Rules and Trees	Ch 3: 3.3.5–3.7	
9/29	Valence	Ch 4: 4.1–4.5	HW 2 due
10/01	Agreement	Ch 4: 4.6–4.10	
10/04	Semantics	Ch 5: 5.1–5.5	
10/06	Modification, Coordination; Semantics Principles	Ch 5: 5.6–5.9	
10/08	How the Grammar Works	Ch 6.1–6.2	HW 3 due
10/11	Binding Revisited	Ch 7: 7.1–7.5	
10/13	Imperatives; The ARP	Ch 7: 7.6–7.9	
10/15	Catch-up and Review		HW 4 due, Midterm out
10/18	Lexical Types	Ch 8: 8.1–8.4	
10/20	Lexical Rules	Ch 8: 8.5–8.9	
10/22	Grammar and Processing	Ch 9	Midterm due
10/25	The Passive Construction	Ch 10	
10/27	Existentials	Ch 11: 11.1–11.3	HW 5 due
10/29	Extraposition; Idioms	Ch 11: 11.4–11.6	
11/1	Raising	Ch 12: 12.1–12.3	
11/3	Control	Ch 12: 12.4–12.7	
11/5	Auxiliary Verbs	Ch 13: 13.1–13.2	HW 6 due
11/8	The NICE Properties	Ch 13: 13.3–13.6	
11/10	Long Distance Dependencies	Ch 14: 14.1–14.4	HW 7 due
11/12	Guest lecture: grammar implementation	Ch 14: 14.5–14.7	
11/15	Subject Gaps; ‘Island Constraints’		
11/17	More on LDDs & Islands		
11/19	Open (Review? Aux system?)		
11/22-11/26	THANKSGIVING WEEK		
11/29-12/1	Crosslinguistic comparisons		Presentations
12/3	Review		Final out
12/8, 11:30am			Final due