

Linguistics Program Western University

Linguistics 2248A Syntactic Analysis

Fall 2018

Location: UCC 37 (lectures); UCC 37/UCC 54B (tutorials)

Time: Monday (2:30-4:30); Wednesday (3:30-4:30)

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PREREQUISITES: Anthropology 1027A/B or Linguistics 2288A/B

It is the student's responsibility to check the course prerequisites and antirequisites.

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from the Department of French Studies to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Syntax is a study of sentence structure: how words are organized into larger meaningful units. Semantics is a study of the way these meaningful units are interpreted. This course examines the nature of speakers' underlying knowledge of the rules for combining words into higher-order structures. We will address the fundamental similarities in sentence patterning among different languages. We look at lexical categories, lexical semantics, constituency, dependency, grammatical relations, argument structure and sentential semantics, focusing especially on the relation between semantic structure and syntactic structure.

PEDAGOGICAL OBJECTIVES

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Know the basic syntactic terminology (e.g., specifier, adjunct, constituent, binding, X-bar rules, functional categories)
- Understand the basics of linguistic argumentation

- Understand a scientific approach to the study of sentence structure (i.e., observation of data → formulation of a hypothesis → testing the hypothesis with a new data → modifying initial hypothesis → testing it with data, etc.)
- Analyze data from a variety of languages proposing a sound syntactic analysis related to structure of phrases and sentences
- Evaluate different proposals of syntactic analysis
- Analyze word order in different languages
- Describe linguistic variation

NOTE: This syllabus may be adjusted as required throughout the term. All students are responsible for attending class for information in this regard and checking Announcements on OWL regularly.

COURSE MATERIALS

Carnie, Andrew. 2013. *Syntax: Generative Introduction*. Third edition. Wiley-Blackwell.
 Carnie, Andrew. 2012. *The Syntax Workbook: A Companion to Carnie's Syntax*. Wiley-Blackwell.

METHODS

The following methods will be used during this course:

- class lectures (complementing the textbook)
- solving problems sets with discussion in lectures and tutorials
- reading at home and raising questions
- solving problem sets
- doing practice exercises in tutorials

Important: Reading the textbook will not replace class lectures and discussions in class. In order to obtain a good mark, you should regularly attend classes. If you have a reason to be absent, let me know in advance.

METHODS OF EVALUATION

Midterm Test:	25%
Problem Sets (5):	30%
Participation:	10%
Final exam:	35%

NB: Students do not have the option of doing additional work to bring up their grade.

The final exam and ***the tests*** will present problem sets based on the material presented in class and in the book. Students will also be tested on their understanding of the theoretical concepts discussed in class. The tests and the final exam are cumulative.

Problem sets will be assigned regularly. It is important to do them individually without any extra help. If you choose to discuss them in a group of 2-3 students, you will need to notify your instructor and write the names of all the students in your group on the first page of your assignment. Doing problem sets in class and as part of your homework will help you to understand theoretical concepts and will prepare you for the tests and the final exam.

Participation is your regular attendance and involvement in all classroom activities and discussion. The discussion will be incorporated throughout the class. Your regular contributions will help you better understand the studied topics and will play a significant role in your overall success in this course.

Submission of assignments

The assignment will be submitted at the beginning of class. Assignments submitted through email are not accepted.

Penalties

(1) No make-up quiz/test will be made.

(2) Late assignments will lose 25% for each calendar day. Exceptions will be made only in the event of illness or other reasonable excuses (provided that the necessary documentation is submitted).

Grades cannot be adjusted for the reason of need (e.g. I just need two points), performance in other courses (e.g. I am an "A" student), poor performance due to illness or personal problems (unless documented and on file with the Academic Counseling Office of your Faculty).

ATTENDANCE

Attendance in lectures and tutorials is mandatory and is part of your participation mark. You cannot learn from classes that you do not attend. If you know you are going to miss a class, please arrange to submit any work due before class (by leaving it at the French Studies Dept, weekdays or, at other times, in the drop-box outside that office) so you can receive credit for your work. Speak to a classmate about getting notes from a missed class.

ACCOMMODATION FOR MEDICAL ILLNESS

In all cases where accommodation is being sought for work totaling more than 10% of the final grade, students should go to their Faculty Academic Counselling, and not to the instructor, where it will be determined if accommodation is warranted and to acquire the appropriate paper work. For work worth less than 10% of the final grade, students are still required to go to their Faculty Academic Counselling to obtain the required paperwork: provided the documentation, late submission (up to 5 business days) will be accepted; after that, accommodation will normally take the form of reweighting other grades to the discretion of the instructor.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

Statement on Use of Electronic Devices

During regular classes, the only allowable electronic device is a laptop computer and it should be used solely for the purpose of taking notes related to the class. Mobile phones, ipods, mp3 players etc. must be turned off during class. Electronic distractions will count against your participation mark. No electronic devices are allowed during the tests and exams.

Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/academic_policies/rights_responsibilities.html

Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments worth 10% or more of their final grade must apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department. Please note that in all courses offered by the Department of French Studies, this same requirement will also apply to assignments worth less than 10% of the final grade. Final examinations must be written at the scheduled time unless formal alternative arrangements for a Special Examination have been approved (by the instructor, the Department and the Home Faculty Dean's Office) based on valid documented grounds.

A downloadable Student Medical Certificate can be found here:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/academic_policies/rights_responsibilities.html

Support services

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Health and Wellness website

http://www.health.uwo.ca/mental_health for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Statement on Plagiarism, Cheating and other Scholastic Offences

Collaboration is normal in linguistics as in other sciences; plagiarism is a serious academic offense at UWO and elsewhere, sanctionable by consequences up to and including expulsion.

You are encouraged to discuss your homework assignments with classmates, but all work submitted for evaluation must identify clearly the names of all students who collaborated (all work is assumed to be individual unless otherwise specified). Please see the detailed information in the academic calendar as well as: <http://www.uwo.ca/ombuds/student/cheating.html> for more information on this subject.

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence in the Academic Handbook available on the Academic Calendar website,

here: <http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2016/pg113.html>

Debarment from writing the final examination

A student is entitled to be examined in courses in which registration is maintained, subject to the following limitations:

- 1) A student may be debarred from writing the final examination for failure to maintain satisfactory academic standing throughout the year.
- 2) Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor, is absent too frequently from class or laboratory periods in any course will be reported to the Dean of the Faculty offering the course (after due warning has been given). On the recommendation of the Department concerned, and with the permission of the Dean of that Faculty, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course. The Dean of the Faculty offering the course will communicate that decision to the Dean of the Faculty of registration. ("Attendance Regulations for Examinations : http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/academic_policies/examinations.html)

Important Academic Information for Students Taking Courses in the Department of

French Studies

http://www.uwo.ca/french/undergraduate/counselling/academic_information/index.html

CALENDAR

** Subject to change at any time. Please follow the announcements in class and on OWL for any changes.*

Week	Lecture & Tutorials	Readings
1	September 10 GENERATIVE GRAMMAR. FOUNDATIONS.	Ch. 1 & Ch. 2
2	September 17 CONSTITUENCY, TREES & RULES. BASIC STRUCTURAL RELATIONS.	Ch. 3 & Ch.4 Problem Set #1 Due Wed
3	September 24 DRAWING TREES. BASIC STRUCTURAL RELATIONS.	Ch. 4
4	October 3 BINDING THEORY	Ch. 5 Problem Set #2 Due Wed
Reading Week		
5	October 15 BINDING THEORY	Ch .5
6	October 22 MIDTERM TEST	
7	October 29 X-BAR THEORY	Ch. 6
8	November 5 X-BAR THEORY. FUNCTIONAL CATEGORIES	Ch. 6-7 Problem Set #4 Due Wed
9	November 12 THEMATIC RELATIONS	Ch. 8
10	November 18 HEAD-TO-HEAD MOVEMENT	Ch. 10 Problem Set #4 Due Wed
11	November 26 DP MOVEMENT	Ch. 11
12	December 3 REVIEW & PRACTICE	Problem Set #5 Due Wed