LING9600A – Syntax
The grammar of raising and control

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The main goal of this course is to familiarize the students with current syntactic theory, by investigating the notions of raising and control and how they been analyzed over the past 50 years. Students will be expected to read original literature in the Principles and Parameters/Minimalism frameworks and will learn about different approaches to syntax (e.g. Relational Grammar, Lexical-Functional Grammar). Students will also learn to apply what they have learned to new data from different languages.

By the end of the course students should
- feel confident reading formal syntactic literature
- be able to apply theoretical analyses to original data
- be able to critique and present research papers
- feel confident about doing original research within the frameworks provided
- be able to communicate their research results (in the form of abstracts, squibs, and oral presentations)

Format of the course:
- lectures
- discussion groups on concepts introduced in the papers
- presentation of language logs
- solving empirical problems in class and at home (assignments)
- student presentations of relevant literature
- original research

Grading is based on:
8 language logs @ 2.5% each 20%
3 group presentations @ 5% each 15%
3 assignments @ 5% each 15%
Final paper (based on language log)
  - topic (one sentence) 2%
  - proposal (one paragraph) 3%
  - outline (2 pages) 5%
  - class presentation 10%
  - written version 30%
**Language log:** Each student will identify a language that s/he will report on throughout the course. The logs will be based on the reading materials: the student will find data from the language that is relevant to issues discussed in a particular chapter or reading.

**Requirements for group presentations:** Each student will participate in 3 group presentations; the groups will be different each time. The goal is to present the central proposal of the paper, identify the empirical issues involved, and work through one or two examples in detail. The presentations will be 15 minutes each, followed by discussion. The group must provide a handout (maximum 6 pages) or use PowerPoint.

**Requirements for individual presentations:** Each student will give a presentation of their research paper. The presentation will be 15 minutes, followed by a 5-minute discussion period. The handout is a maximum of 6 pages.

**Requirements for the research paper:** The goal is to identify an empirical or theoretical problem concerning raising or control, present a data set that bears on it, assess the implications of the analysis and work through at least one representation using the relevant syntactic formalism. Format: 20 pages maximum, 12-point font, 1.5 line spacing, 1-inch margins.

**Attendance:** Attendance and active participation in all lectures is required.

**Textbook:**

Additional readings will be suggested.