

**Linguistics Program  
Western University**

**Linguistics 2248B  
Syntactic Analysis**

**Winter 2024**

**Classroom Location:** AHB-1B08, Tuesday 4:30-6:30

**Tutorials:** AHB-1B08, Tuesdays 3:30-4:30

**Professor:** Dr. Hermann Keupdjio

**Email:** [hkeupdj@uwo.ca](mailto:hkeupdj@uwo.ca)

**Office hours:** TBA

**Primary method of contact:** Piazza is catered to getting you help fast and efficiently from classmates and the instructor team. Rather than emailing your questions to our teaching team, we encourage you to post your questions on Piazza. Public messages can be answered by anyone in the class including the instructors. Private messages will be seen by the instructor team. Sign up at <https://piazza.com/uwo.ca/winter2024/ba31>

Students must use their Western email addresses when contacting their instructors.

**ANTIREQUISITE:** The former Anthropology 2248A/B

**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**

An introduction to contemporary generative syntax: lexical categories, morphology in relation to syntax, constituency, dependency, grammatical relations, argument structure. The primary language discussed will be English, but examples will be drawn from other languages where appropriate.

## **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
- Observe and describe linguistic variation

## **COURSE MATERIALS (REQUIRED)**

Carnie, Andrew. 2021. *Syntax: Generative Introduction*. Fourth edition. Wiley-Blackwell.

Carnie, Andrew. 2021. *The Syntax Workbook: A Companion to Carnie's Syntax*. Second edition. Wiley-Blackwell.

## **OWL**

Students are responsible for checking the course OWL site (<http://owl.uwo.ca>) on a regular basis for news and updates. This is the primary method by which information will be disseminated to all students in the class. If students need assistance with the course OWL site, they can seek support on the OWL Help page. Alternatively, they can contact the Western Technology Services Helpdesk. They can be contacted by phone at 519-661-3800 or ext. 83800.

## **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
- 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.

## **METHODS OF EVALUATION**

Midterm Test:	25%	February 13, 2024
Problem Sets (best 4 of 5):	30%	See Calendar below for dates
Participation:	10%	Assessed using iClickers in lectures, tutorials & online discussion board
Final exam:	35%	Set by Registrar

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

*The final exam* and *the midterm test* 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 midterm test 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, 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, in tutorials, and as part of your homework will help you to understand theoretical concepts and will prepare you for the test and the final exam.

**Participation** is your regular attendance and involvement in all classroom activities and discussion, as well as participation on Piazza. Class discussions 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. To facilitate participation, the course will use iClicker technology, with participation assessed through completion of in-class questions. To get full marks for participation, a minimum of 80% of the questions must be answered. This recognizes that illness or other factors that affect attendance can be accommodated. Participation marks cannot exceed 100%.

#### **SUBMISSION OF PROBLEM SETS**

Problem sets must be submitted via OWL.

#### **PENALTIES**

Late assignments will lose 10% 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).

#### **COLLABORATION**

If you decide to form a study group to work together on assignments, your collaboration should not go beyond discussing ideas together. In other words, you must write up your own assignment separately from the group, using only your own words (except when quoting other work directly, in which case use citations as standard). The following are all **banned** forms of collaboration:

- Having one or more members of the group produce a “group draft”, or “group essay plan”, which individual members of the group then customize.
- Writing up on separate computers while conferring with each other in real time (whether in person or via skype, chat services, or any other medium).
- Using another student’s complete assignment as a reference when completing your own.

Furthermore, when assignments are problem-set-based rather than essay-based, I encourage you to try to work alone, at least at first, before coming together with fellow students. Otherwise, it will be hard for you to tell how much you’ve really understood.

### IMPORTANT DATES

February 19-25: Spring reading week

March 7: Last day to drop a second-term half course without academic penalty

April 8: Classes end

April 11-30: Exam period

### CALENDAR

*\* Subject to minor modifications at any time. Please follow the announcements in class, on OWL for any changes.*

Week	Lecture & Tutorials	Readings
1	<b>January 9</b> GENERATIVE GRAMMAR. PARTS OF SPEECH.	Ch. 1 & Ch. 2
2	<b>January 16</b> CONSTITUENCY, TREES & RULES. STRUCTURAL RELATIONS.	Ch. 3 & Ch.4
3	<b>January 23</b> DRAWING TREES. STRUCTURAL RELATIONS.	Ch. 4 <b>Problem Set #1 Due (January 24)</b>
4	<b>January 30</b> X-BAR THEORY	Ch. 6
5	<b>February 6</b> X-BAR THEORY. FUNCTIONAL CATEGORIES <b>Problem Set #2 Due</b>	Ch. 6-7
6	<b>February 13</b> <b>MIDTERM TEST</b>	
READING WEEK		
7	<b>February 27</b> BINDING THEORY	Ch. 5
8	<b>March 5</b> BINDING THEORY	Ch. 5 <b>Problem Set #3 Due (March 6)</b>
9	<b>March 12</b> THETA THEORY	Ch. 8
10	<b>March 19</b> HEAD-TO-HEAD MOVEMENT	Ch. 10 <b>Problem Set #4 Due (March 20)</b>
11	<b>March 26</b> DP MOVEMENT	Ch. 11
12	<b>April 2</b> WH MOVEMENT	<b>Problem Set #5 Due (April 3)</b>

## **ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS**

### **Statement on Use of Electronic Devices**

During regular classes, the only allowable electronic device is a laptop computer or tablet 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, except for use as iClickers. Electronic distractions will count against your participation mark. No electronic devices are allowed during the tests and exams.

### **1. Statement on Use of Personal Response Systems (“Clickers”)**

Ling2248B will use iClickers, an audience response device. iClicker is Western’s officially-supported audience response system. It supports both virtual and physical clickers.

To use iClicker, you need to create an account. If you have previously used iClicker at Western you will use the existing account, but need to sign-in to iClicker Reef once per course, using the OWL portal.

To create an account please follow the instructions at

[http://www.uwo.ca/its/presswestern/students\\_and\\_audience/index.html](http://www.uwo.ca/its/presswestern/students_and_audience/index.html)

Once your account is created, you can participate using iClicker using a ‘virtual clicker’ by way of a mobile app (Android or iOS mobile device) or web browser. These are free. Or you can purchase a physical clicker from The Book Store.

We will use the iClicker system to encourage participation and active learning. Questions posed using the system will provide you examples of the types of questions to be used on quizzes and the exam. The participation mark will be based on responses to questions using the iClicker system (the participation mark is based on a response, rather than a correct vs incorrect answer). See the section on Participation for how this component is evaluated.

iClickers can only be used by the account owner, clicker misuse (including use by a student other than the owner) is considered a form of [Scholastic Offence](#)

iClicker uses an external account. Student responses are anonymized when displayed. Responses associated with the participation mark are treated in a similar manner to all other marked components of the course and are only available to the student, instructor and TAs.

### **Guidelines for Students on the use of Personal Response Systems (“Clickers”)**

Personal Response Systems (“clickers”) may be used in some classes. If clickers are to be used in a class, it is the responsibility of the student to ensure that the device is activated and functional. Students must see their instructor if they have any concerns about whether the clicker is malfunctioning.

Students must use only their own clicker. If clicker records are used to compute a portion of the course grade:

- the use of somebody else’s clicker in class constitutes a [scholastic offence](#),
- the possession of a clicker belonging to another student will be interpreted as an attempt to commit a [scholastic offence](#).

## **ACCOMMODATION**

### **Accommodation for Students with Disabilities**

Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact Accessible Education, which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The policy on Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities can be found at:

[https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/Academic%20Accommodation\\_disabilities.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic%20Accommodation_disabilities.pdf)

### **Accommodation for Medical Illness**

A student seeking academic accommodation for any work worth **less than 10%** must contact the instructor or follow the appropriate Department or course specific instructions provided on the course outline. For the purposes of this course, you will receive the best 4 grades of 5 homework assignments.

A student seeking academic accommodation for any work worth **more than 10%** must submit documentation, as soon as possible, to the appropriate Dean's office (the Office of the Dean of the student's Faculty of registration/home Faculty) together with a request for relief specifying the nature of the accommodation being requested.

The accommodation policy can be found [here](#).

Student Medical Certificate (SMC):

[https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf)

### **Absences from Final Examinations**

If you miss the Final Exam, please contact the Academic Counselling office of your Faculty of Registration as soon as you are able to do so. They will assess your eligibility to write the Special Examination (the name given by the University to a makeup Final Exam).

You may also be eligible to write the Special Exam if you are in a "Multiple Exam Situation" (e.g., more than 2 exams in 23-hour period, more than 3 exams in a 47-hour period).

### **Religious Accommodation**

When a course requirement conflicts with a religious holiday that requires an absence from the University or prohibits certain activities, students should request accommodation for their absence in writing at least two weeks prior to the holiday to the course instructor and/or the Academic Counselling office of their Faculty of Registration. Please consult University's list of recognized religious holidays (updated annually) at

<https://multiculturalcalendar.com/ecal/index.php?s=c-univwo>

## **EVALUATION OF ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE**

At least three days prior to the deadline for withdrawal from a course without academic penalty, students will receive assessment of work accounting for at least 15% of their final grade. For 3000- or 4000-level courses in which such a graded assessment is impracticable, the instructor(s) must obtain an exemption from this policy from the Dean and this exemption must be noted on the

corresponding course syllabus. In rare instances and at the Dean's discretion, other courses could receive a similar exemption, which also must be noted in the course syllabus.

### **COURSE ASSIGNMENT**

The last day of scheduled classes in any course will be the last day on which course assignments will be accepted for credit in a course. Instructors will be required to return assignments to students as promptly as possible with reasonable explanations of the instructor's assessment of the assignment.

### **ACADEMIC OFFENCES**

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at:

[http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_undergrad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf)

### **SUPPORT SERVICES**

#### **Academic Counselling**

Your Home Faculty's Academic Counselling or Academic Advising Office will support or refer whenever you have an issue that is affecting your studies, including information on adding/dropping courses, academic considerations for absences, appeals, exam conflicts, and many other academic related matters. Do not hesitate to reach out to them if you are struggling and unsure where to go for help. Contact info for all Faculties is here:

[https://registrar.uwo.ca/faculty\\_academic\\_counselling.html](https://registrar.uwo.ca/faculty_academic_counselling.html)

#### **Mental Health Support**

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western (<https://uwo.ca/health/>) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

#### **Gender-based and sexual violence**

Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have experienced sexual or gender-based violence (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at

[https://www.uwo.ca/health/student\\_support/survivor\\_support/get-help.html](https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html).

To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact [support@uwo.ca](mailto:support@uwo.ca).

#### **Accessible Education**

Please contact the course instructor if you require lecture or printed material in an alternate format or if any other arrangements can make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Accessible Education at:

[http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessible\\_education/index.html](http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessible_education/index.html)

if you have any questions regarding accommodations.

#### **Learning Development and Success**

Counsellors at the Learning Development and Success Centre (<https://learning.uwo.ca>) are ready to help you improve your learning skills. They offer presentations on strategies for improving time management, multiple-choice exam preparation/writing, textbook reading, and more. Individual support is offered throughout the Fall/Winter terms in the drop-in Learning Help

Centre, and year-round through individual counselling.

### **USC**

Additional student-run support services are offered by the USC, <https://westernusc.ca/services/>.

### **Statement on Plagiarism, Cheating and other Scholastic Offences**

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 Policies available on the University Secretariat website: “Undergraduate Students - Scholastic Discipline”,  
[https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/academic\\_policies/rights\\_responsibilities.html](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/academic_policies/rights_responsibilities.html)

Students are expected to retain all research notes, rough drafts, essay outlines, and other materials used in preparing assignments. In the unlikely event of concerns being raised about the authenticity of any assignment, your instructor may ask you to produce these materials; an inability to do so may weigh heavily against you.

If plagiarism or unauthorized AI use is suspected, the instructor will ask for research notes and/or drafts of assignments after the assignment has been submitted. Students must keep all notes and first drafts until the assignment is returned to them.”

### **Policy on Attendance**

“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](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](http://www.uwo.ca/french/undergraduate/counselling/academic_information/index.html)