LIN 1131 – Introduction to Syntactic Theory University of Toronto, Fall 2013

Instructor: Arsalan Kahnemuyipour

Lecture: M 1-4, SS 1080

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Office Hours: St. George: M 11-12 (or by appointment)
UTM: By appointment (highly recommended!)

Textbook: Hornstein, Norbert, Jairo Nunes and Kleanthes K. Grohmann. Understanding Minimalism. First edition. Cambridge University Press. 2005.

Other References:

Adger, David. Core Syntax: A Minimalist Approach. Oxford University Press 2003.
Boeckx, Cedric. 2006. *Linguistic Minimalism.* Oxford University Press.
Lasnik, Howard and Juan Uriagereka (with Cedric Boeckx). A Course in Minimalist Syntax: Foundations and Prospects. Blackwell 2005.
Syntax Textbooks written in the GB framework, e.g. Carnie, Copwer, Haegeman, among others.

Evaluation:	**Weight**	**Date**
Participation	5%	Throughout
Problem Sets (x4)	20%	See schedule
Extended Problems (x2)	10%	Oct. 7 & 21
Presentation 1	10%	Nov. 4
Paper topic proposal	5%	Nov. 18
Presentation 2	10%	Dec. 4
Final take-home	20%	Dec. 6
Term paper	20%	Dec. 9

Course Description: This course is an introduction to the Minimalist Program, the latest instantiation of the Principles and Parameters framework. Building on your knowledge of GB syntax, we will discuss the motivations behind minimalism and ways of implementing minimalist ideas to tackle syntactic questions. In other words, our goal is for you to know, by the end of the course, 'why' we do minimalism and 'how' we do it!

Course Components:

Participation: You are expected to actively participate in class discussions, both during lecture and when going over problem sets. You are expected to read the relevant textbook chapters in advance to be able to contribute to class discussion.

Problem Sets: There will be four problem sets assigned as homework during weeks marked on the schedule and due and discussed in class on the following Monday. These assignments will be worth 20% of your final grade (i.e. 5% each). Late assignments will not be accepted after class discussion has taken place. All assignments must be typed, unless special arrangements are made in advance. Tree diagrams can be drawn by hand. Homework must be handed in on paper, not by email or fax. **Note:** You can discuss the problems with others but what you hand in should be written up in your own words.

Extended Problems: You are required to hand in two Extended Problems (approx. 5 double-spaced pages each); the first one is due on Oct. 7 and the second one on Oct. 21. The topic of each extended problem can arise from a(n) issue/problem/phenomenon covered in class lectures, problem sets or in the textbook. It could also be the result of applying an analysis we have gone over to new data (e.g. from a different language). For each Extended Problem, you should read at least two relevant articles (to be decided in consultation with me). In your Extended Problem, you can lay out the problem, briefly review the literature addressing the problem, provide possible solutions, discuss issues for further research, etc. Each extended problem is worth 5% of your final grade.

Presentation 1: This presentation takes place on Nov. 4 and is based on one of the Extended Problems you have handed in prior to this date. Ideally, the presentation should be based on the Extended Problem that will be the basis of your term paper. For this presentation, you should take into account the feedback you have received on your Extended Problems. This presentation is worth 10% of your final grade.

Paper Topic Proposal: You should discuss the topic for your term paper with me and submit a short paper proposal (approx. 2 pages, double-spaced) by Nov. 18. The paper could be on any syntactic problem in any language written in a minimalist framework, a critical survey of a particular syntactic issue in the minimalist framework, or any other issue arising from the lecture, text, problem sets, etc. Ideally, the paper grows out of one of the Extended Problems you have handed in, and preferably your Presentation 1. The paper proposal is worth 5% of your final grade.

Presentation 2: This presentation takes place on Make-up Monday (tentatively, Wednesday Dec. 4, Time: TBD). In this presentation, worth 10% of your final grade, you will get a chance to present the first draft of your term paper and get feedback from your classmated and me.

Final Take-home: You will be given a final take-home exam on Dec. 4, due Dec. 6. This exam will be based on the material in the textbook for the course and is worth 20% of your final grade. **Note**: You are allowed to use course material including the textbook, but may not refer to outside sources, online or otherwise. You may not discuss the problems with anyone else either. The exam you hand is should be solely your own.

Term Paper: Every student should hand in a paper (approx. 20 pages) at the end of the semester on any topic related to the course. The paper is ideally the culmination of the work you have developed during the term (in the form of Extended Problems and Presentations). While the various components of the course may end up being independent, the Term Paper and Presentation 2 have to be related, i.e. Presentation 2 has to be the first draft of the term paper. For the final paper, you should take into account feedback you received from your classmates and me during your presentation. The final paper is due on Dec. 9 and is worth 20% of your final grade.

Course Schedule (approximate):

Date	**Topic**	**Reading**	**Assignment**
Sept. 9	Introduction, Minimalist Program	HNG 1	
Sept. 16	Minimalist Architecture	HNG 2	PS 1 out
Sept. 22	**Last day to add course**		
Sept. 23	Argument Structure	HNG 3	PS 1 due, PS 2 out
Sept. 30	Case	HNG 4	PS 2 due
Oct. 7	Minimality	HNG 5	EP 1 due
Oct. 14	**Thanksgiving – No Class**		
Oct. 21	Phrase Structure	HNG 6	EP 2 due, PS 3 out
Oct. 28	Linearization	HNG 7	PS 3 due
Nov. 4	**Presentation 1 (based on EP 1 or EP 2)**		
Nov. 11	**Fall Break – No Class**		
Nov. 18	Binding	HNG 8	Paper proposal due, PS4 out
Nov. 25	Feature Checking	HNG 9	PS 4 due
Dec. 2	Derivational Economy	HNG 10	
Dec. 4	**Presentation 2 (Time: TBD) - Makeup**		Final take-home assigned
Dec. 6	**Final take-home due**		
Dec. 9	**Final Paper Due**		