LIN 331 – Syntactic Theory

Winter 2015

Instructor: Arsalan Kahnemuyipour

Lecture: MO 11-12 (DH 2080), WE 1-3 (CC 2130)

Office: Erindale Hall, 304D

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Textbook: Sportiche, Dominique, Hilda Koopman and Edward Stabler. 2014. An

Introduction to Syntactic Analysis and Theory. 1st edition. Wiley

Blackwell.

Other Recommended Texts:

Carnie, Andrew. 2002, 2007, 2012. Syntax: A Generative Introduction. Wiley-Blackwell. (This text has been used in LIN 232 in recent years.) Radord, Andrew. 2004. Minimalist Syntax: Exploring the structure of

English. Cambridge: CUP.

Adger, David. 2003. Core Syntax: A Minimalist Approach. Oxford: OUP. Hageman, Liliane. 1994 (2nd Edition) Introduction to Government and

Binding Theory. Oxford: Blackwell Publishing.

Cowper, E. 1992. A Concise Introduction to Syntactic Theory: The Government-Binding Approach Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Prerequisite: LIN 232

Evaluation:

Problem Sets (Group)	15%
Pop Quizzes (Individual)	20%
Final Exam (Individual)	30%
Final Project:	25%

Presentation (Group) 10% Paper (Individual) 15%

Participation (Individual/Group) 10%

Course Description: This course covers issues that are of general interest to generative syntacticians. The course exposes the students to a range of cross-linguistic data and equips them with the tools to analyze them. Building on the second year course in syntax (LIN 232), the aim of this course is to give students a deeper understanding of syntactic theory and analysis and to engage them with syntactic questions at a deeper level. By the end of this course, the students should feel comfortable approaching any syntactic question and should have the confidence to initiate independent research on it.

Requirements: In addition to the textbook, there may be supplementary material (e.g. practice questions, handouts, assignments, etc.). Anything discussed/covered in the lectures or assignments is considered part of the required material. Note: In case of any discrepancies between the text and the lecture, you are expected to follow the lecture.

Groups: The class will be divided into working groups who will be engaged in class activities in various ways, e.g. working on assigned problems, taking up assignment questions in class, working on the final project and presentation, etc.

Participation: The participation mark (worth 10%) reflects the student's active participation during class, including his/her presence, preparedness, and constructive contribution to the discussions. The group activities in class will make up part of the participation mark.

Problem Sets: There will be weekly problem sets assigned as homework during the week, due and discussed in class on the following Monday. The problem sets should be done in groups. **Each group will hand in only one problem set for the whole group.** These problem sets will be worth 15% of your final grade. 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.

Pop Quizzes: There will be occasional quizzes (at least four) throughout the course, given either on a Monday or a Wednesday. These quizzes will be on material covered up to the end of the previous class and will be very short (typically one question). You should make sure you attend all classes and also come to class prepared. If you are absent on the day a quiz is given, you are assigned a mark of zero on that quiz unless there are conflicts of a serious nature and appropriate documentation is provided.

Final Project: Each group is required to work on a final project for this course. The project should be based on an issue arising from one of the topics, phenomena or problems covered/discussed in class. **Each group will need to submit a short (roughly half a page) topic proposal by Feb. 11.** Topic proposals should specify what specific question the group is planning to investigate and provide 2-4 relevant articles they have found for their research. The groups will then have to meet with me in the following two weeks and should have their topic and related article(s) finalized by **March 6**. The goal of each project is to provide a brief critical review of the literature addressing the particular syntactic question or phenomenon. The project has two components:

Presentation (Group): The result of each group's work will be presented in the final week of class. All of the members of the group should be involved in the preparation of the presentation which should be delivered in a professional way, e.g. using Power Point, Prezi or handouts. The presentation is worth 10% of your final mark.

Paper (Individual): Each student should write a paper of approximately 10 double-spaced pages discussing the result of their group project. The write-up of the paper should be done individually without the help of other members of the group. The paper is worth 15% of your final grade and is **due by April 10, 2015.**

Final Exam: The final exam takes place during the examination period and is worth 30% of the final grade for the course.

Code of Conduct: Students are expected to be familiar with, and to abide by, the Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters and all other relevant University regulations. The Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters can be found in the calendar for 2014-15. When submitting individual work, copying part or all of another student's work is plagiarism. If you copy (part of) your work from another student or allow another student to copy (part of) your work, you are committing an academic offence according to the Code of Behaviour. In preparing your presentation and writing your paper, you will have to refer to outside sources (e.g. an article or a book chapter). Whenever you use any statements or ideas from these sources in your paper, you will have to use correct citation and ensure proper acknowledgement.

Access*Ability* **Resource Centre**: AARC provides services to students who have health conditions that require accommodation. Further information can be found at http://www.utm.utoronto.ca/access, by telephone at 905-569-4699, by e-mail at access.utm@utoronto.ca or in person at room 2037 in the South Building.

Course Schedule (approximate):

Week of	Topic	Text	Due Dates
Jan 5	Constituency	3	
Jan 12	Clause and Phrase Structure	4, 5	
Jan 18:	Deadline to add S courses		
Jan 19	X-bar	6	
Jan 26	Binding	7	
Feb 2	Movement	8	
Feb 9	Raising and Control	9	Topic Proposal due Feb 11
Feb 16	No Class – Reading Week		Meetings to discuss paper
Feb 23	Constraints on Movement	10	Meetings to discuss paper
Mar 2	Probing Structures	11	
Mar 6:	Project topic and related article(s) determined by this date		
Mar 8:	Deadline to drop S courses without academic penalty		
Mar 9	Atoms of Syntax	12	
Mar 16	Binding – Advanced	13	
Mar 23	Wh-movement – Advanced	14	
Mar 30	Review and Presentations		
April 10:	Paper due		
	TH. 17		u IDI (IDD)

April 13-27: Final Exam during examination period (Time and Place TBD)