
LINGUIST 401
Introduction to Syntax
Fall 2005, SOM 129, TTh 9.30-10.45
<http://people.umass.edu/bhatt/401-f05/>

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Topics:

What syntactic properties are shared by all natural languages? What syntactic properties distinguish them? What do we know when we know a language? What are syntactic properties? How do we construct a theory of syntax? This course aims to equip students with the ability to address these questions in a precise and informed way. The topics include those that are central to a proper understanding of syntax: phrase structure, movement, grammatical relations, case, complementation, anaphora, and long-distance movement.

- Implicit knowledge, grammaticality, and related issues
- Constituency
- Categories
- Syntactic trees
- X-bar theory
- Case and NP-Movement
 - Passivization
 - Raising and Control
 - Exceptional Case Marking
 - Expletives
- Binding Theory
- *Wh*-Movement
- Head Movement

Prerequisites:

Linguist 201 (Introduction to Linguistics) or the consent of the instructor

Requirements:

- participation in class, in e-mail, or during my office hours (10%)
- regular homework and in-class assignments (roughly one a week) (60%)
- two take-home exams, the first assigned on October 27 and due on November 1 and the second assigned on December 6 and due on December 13. (15% each)

Some Policies:

- I expect you to participate in class and pay attention. If I notice that you are not paying attention, I will ask you to leave the lecture and not grade your assignment for the week.
- You are welcome to work together on the regular assignments, but joint assignments are not allowed. Please list the names of everyone you worked with at the top of each assignment.
- You cannot work together on the exams.
- The assignments and exams will address only material that we covered in class (and appropriate extensions of it). So active and engaged participation in the class meetings is essential to your success on them.
- I will drop your lowest regular-assignment grade (even if it is a 0), on the condition that you participate in one of the experiments being run by UMass Linguistics researchers this semester. These experiments typically involve speaking, writing, or listening.
- Late assignments will only be accepted in the case of medical or other emergencies.

I will make the lecture slides available online on the website and occasionally distribute short, compulsory reading assignments. In addition to these, there is a required text.

Required Text:

Syntax: A Generative Introduction, Andrew Carnie, Blackwell Publishing, 2002. (ISBN 0-631-22544-7) (ordered at Amherst Books, 8 Main St. Amherst).