
LINGUIST 401
Introduction to Syntax
Fall 2007, Dickinson 112, TTh 1.00-2.15
<http://people.umass.edu/bhatt/401-f07/>

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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 (10%)
- regular homework assignments (roughly once a week) and written questions (60%)
- two take-home exams, the first assigned on October 18 and due on October 25 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.
- I prefer typed assignments. If you turn in handwritten assignments, they need to be very neatly written. Please turn in physical copies of your assignments; electronic copies will be accepted only under special circumstances.
- 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) if you participate in one of the experiments being run by UMass Linguistics researchers this semester. These experiments typically involve speaking, writing, or listening.
- Unless indicated otherwise, assignments will be due in class a week from the day on which they were assigned. Late assignments will only be accepted in the case of medical or other emergencies.

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

Required Text:

Syntax: A Generative Introduction, Andrew Carnie, Blackwell Publishing, 2nd edition, 2007. (ISBN 1-4051-3384-8) (ordered at UMass textbook annex).