Topics:

General Topics: Universal Grammar, Parameters, Features, Constituency, Displacement, the model of the grammar
Global Questions: How are linguistic structures built? Where do linguistic principles apply?

X-bar theory: specifiers vs. complements, arguments vs. adjuncts, similarities between nominal and sentential structure


Binding Theory: Conditions A, B, and C, the role of structural relationships such as c-command, the role of locality, binding domains

A-movement: Raising movement, distinction between raising and control, infinitival complementation, PRO and pro, Movement in Passives, Burzio’s Generalization. Case as motivation for movement.

Head-movement: the English auxiliary system, English vs. French, V2 in Germanic languages. Nature of constraints on movement. Locality effects on movement - relativized minimality effects.

Reference texts:

Requirements: vigorous participation in class discussion, occasional in-class presentations, regular readings and homework assignments, one mid-term exam and a final exam. Both the exams will be take home exams.