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 as movement, distinction between raising and control, the control as movement debate, infinitival complementation, restructuring, PRO and pro.

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.

Readings will be assigned regularly and will be made available online.

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