LING-UA 13: Grammatical Analysis

Fall 2017, Mondays & Wednesdays, 11:00–12:15pm, 10 Washington Pl Room 104

Teaching staff

Instructor:	Hadas Kotek
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Office hours:	Tuesdays 1–3pm and by appointment
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Office hours:	Wednesdays 3:30–5pm and by appointment, 10 WP Rm 409
Recitation:	A weekly review section will be offered for this course on Thursdays, 12:30–1:45pm, 10 Washington Pl Room 104.

Description

> "A logical theory may be tested by its capacity for dealing with puzzles, and it is a wholesome plan, in thinking about logic, to stock the mind with as many puzzles as possible, since these serve much the same purpose as is served by experiments in physical science." Russell (1905, 484–485)

This course is an undergraduate-level introduction to modern syntactic theory. Empirically, the course will cover a range of grammatical phenomena in English and other languages, to "stock the mind with as many puzzles as possible," and to motivate and evaluate hypotheses under discussion. Students will complete the class with both the technical expertise and theoretical foundation to approach a range of work in contemporary syntactic literature.

Course requirements include problem sets roughly every other week, two exams, and in-class participation.

Website

- Lecture notes will be posted on NYU Classes, accessible to enrolled students via NYUHome
- NYU Classes will also be used for submitting assignments and posting additional readings. Please make sure you have access to the website.

Textbook and Course Materials

There is no single required textbook for this course this year. There will be some required readings assigned, but many readings will be suggested as background reading, only. **Attendance at lectures is therefore crucial**. We'll be building up syntactic structures on our own in class. All suggested and required readings will be provided as PDFs via NYU Classes.

Adger, David. 2003. *Core Syntax: A Minimalist Approach*. Oxford.

Carnie, Andrew. 2012. *Syntax: A Generative Introduction*. Third edition, Wiley-Blackwell.

Chomsky, Noam. 1986. Chapters 1 and 2 in *Knowledge of Language*.

Sportiche Dominique, Hilda Koopman, and Ed Stabler. 2014. *An Introduction to Syntactic Analysis and Theory*, Wiley-Blackwell.

You will be required to submit **TYPED** problem sets. You will need to learn how to draw syntax trees on the computer in order to complete your problem sets. For this, you will need some tree-drawing software. You have several options (more on this in recitation):

1. Use the free online tool: `http://ironcreek.net/phpsyntaxtree/`, and watch the short online tutorial: `https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sUs13cuiVDM`.
2. Use one of the following Syntax Tree Drawing Fonts: *Arboreal* (Mac) or *ArborWin* (PC). (Be sure to read the instructions, particularly re: spacing in .doc files, which must be set to "exactly 12 point" – email Hadas for access to these fonts. We'll try to put them up on NYU Classes, but there was some kind of a glitch posting font files last semester.)
3. Download TreeForm: `http://sourceforge.net/projects/treeform`
4. Download RSyntaxTree: `http://www.yohasebe.com/rsyntaxtree/`
5. For LaTeX users, check out *qtree* and other options here (click on "Trees" in the menu): `http://www.essex.ac.uk/linguistics/external/clmt/latex4ling/`
6. (Slowest option) Draw your trees using the drawing tool in MS Word (or another word processing program)

Requirements

Your grade will be determined by your performance on the following:

1. **Attendance and participation (5%):** Active attendance, participation in class, and preparation (doing the readings) are crucial for success in the class.
2. **Problem sets ($6 \times 10\% = 60\%$):** Problem sets are an opportunity to apply the techniques developed in class and in the readings to original data.
3. **Midterm exam (15%):** The midterm will test knowledge of the empirical phenomena covered in the first half of class.
4. **Final exam (20%):** The final exam (**TIME, DATE, LOCATION**) will test knowledge of the empirical phenomena covered in class and application of the concepts of the class to new data and puzzles.

Rules of note

- **Talk to me:** Come visit me in office hours! I enjoy talking about syntax (and life!) outside of class, too! I want you to succeed in this class. If any material or requirement is unclear, let me know. In extreme cases, alternative arrangements can be made for some of the course requirements, but only by talking to me first.
- **Cooperation:** You are allowed — in fact, encouraged — discuss homework assignments with other students. However, you must always submit your own write-up, and you must list the students who you worked with on your assignment.
- **Integrity:** The use of others' ideas or expressions without citation is **plagiarism**. The penalty for academic dishonesty is severe. You must declare all sources in submitted work. Citations don't need to be in any particular format, but they have to be there. Click here for more information.
- **Disabilities:** Any student who feels they may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact me privately to discuss their specific needs and to discuss potential accommodations. I rely on the Center for Students with Disabilities for assistance in verifying the need for accommodations and developing accommodation strategies. Please see here for more information.
- **Participation:** As the instructor, I will be doing a large portion of the talking in class, but the course will be vastly improved by you, the students, sharing your ideas and asking your questions. If you have a question, there is probably at least one other person with the same question. Ask it; others will be grateful you did. If what I've said is hard to follow, or if you think I've made a mistake, let me know right away. It's easiest to fix problems as they come. Moreover, when I ask questions, I typically expect answers. Don't be shy! I will wait.

Schedule

The schedule is subject to change. We may speed up or slow down as necessary.

Required readings are marked with * and must be completed **BEFORE** class.
All readings will be posted on NYU Classes.

Week	Date	Topic
1	9/6	Introduction: What is syntax? **Reading assignment posted, due at recitation: September 15!**
2	9/11	Generative grammar and parts of speech *Reading:* *Carnie (2012), Ch 1–2
	9/13	Constituency and constituency tests *Reading:* *Sportiche et al. (2014), Ch3 *Chomsky (1986), Ch1–2 in *Knowledge of Language* **PS1 posted**
3	9/18	Building structure *Reading:* *Sportiche et al. (2014), Ch4–5
	9/20	Building structure continued *Reading:* *Adger (2003) Ch3, 4.2 **PS1 due, PS2 posted**
4	9/25	Binding theory
	9/27	**No class: Hadas is out of town**
5	10/2	Binding theory continued *Reading:* *Sportiche et al. (2014), Ch7
	10/4	Argument asymmetries and *v*P *Reading:* Adger (2003), Ch4 Barss and Lasnik (1986) **PS2 due, PS3 posted**
6	10/9	**No class: Fall recess**
	10/11	Subjects *Reading:* Adger (2003), Ch6.1–6.2 McCloskey (1997)

7	10/16	More subjects
		Reading: Adger (2003), Ch4.5, 6.4
		PS3 due
	10/18	Catch-up and quick review
8	10/23	**Midterm**
	10/25	Case and agreement
		Reading: Pesetsky and Torrego (2011)
		PS4 posted
9	10/30	Case and agreement continued
		Reading: Adger (2003), Ch6.3
	11/1	Auxiliaries and head movement
		Reading:
10	11/6	Embedded clauses
		Reading: *Sportiche et al. (2014), Ch 9
	11/8	Raising vs Control
		PS4 due, PS 5 posted
11	11/13	*Wh*-movement
		Reading: *Sportiche et al. (2014), Ch 10
	11/15	*Wh*-movement continued
12	11/20	More movement
	11/22	**No class: Thanksgiving recess**
		PS5 due, PS6 posted
13	11/27	Fun advanced topics 1: PF and Spell-Out
	11/29	Fun advanced topics 2: Ellipsis
14	12/4	Fun advanced topics 3: TBD
	12/6	Fun advanced topics 4: TBD
		PS6 due
15	12/11	Spill-over day
	12/13	Review & wrap-up