

Ling 253/653 Syntax I

Instructor	Dennis Ryan Storoshenko dennis.storoshenko@yale.edu
Lectures	Tuesday & Thursday 1:00-2:15pm WLH 120
Office Hours	Thursdays 10:45-11:45am or by appointment
Office Location	370 Temple, room 305
Course Webpage	see Classes*v2
Prerequisites	None
TA	Sabina Matyiku sabina.matyiku@yale.edu
Section	Wednesday 1:30-2:30pm (Dunham Laboratory (10 Hillhouse), room 102)
Office Hours	Wednesdays 2:30-3:30pm
Office Location	370 Temple, room 210

Course Goals

1. Primarily, this course is an introduction to syntactic theory. We will explore the questions the field asks, the methodologies employed, and some of the main generalisations that have been drawn.
2. Additionally, this course will introduce scientific theorising by constructing and testing scientific theories about language (specifically syntax). We will discuss how to choose between competing theories, and how to talk about language in a scientific (rather than prescriptive) way.

Readings

Readings will be announced weekly on C*v2. The core textbook for this course will be:

- Carnie, Andrew. 2007. *Syntax: A Generative Introduction*. 2nd edition. Blackwell Publishing.

You will be required to read the following book by the midterm:

- Baker, Mark (2001) *The Atoms of Language: The Mind's Hidden Rules of Grammar*. Basic Books.

There are several other books that we might draw from during the course of the semester, for example:

- Chomsky, Noam. 1988. *Language and Problems of Knowledge: The Managua Lectures*. The MIT Press.
- Jackendoff, Ray. 1994. *Patterns in the Mind*. The MIT Press.
- Radford, Andrew. 1988. *Transformational Grammar*. 2nd edition. CUP.
- Haegeman, Liliane. 1994. *Introduction to Government and Binding Theory*. 2nd edition. Blackwell.

Course Components, Requirements, and Assessment

1. Lectures

This is where key course material will be communicated; attendance is essential if you plan to keep up. Lecture notes will be provided ahead of time on C*v2, students are encouraged to download them in advance to be annotated during class time.

2. Discussion Sections

Discussion sections will begin on Sept 5, and are intended to provide an opportunity to ask clarification questions concerning assignments and any other issues that may arise from lectures. Additional practice exercises will be prepared to work through during section (time permitting; your questions, concerns, etc... take priority).

3. Pseudo-Weekly Problem Sets

Most weeks, there will be a problem set distributed on C*v2. Hard copies of your problem sets will be due at the beginning of Thursday classes. Assignments will be corrected and graded for both correctness and clarity. Late problem sets will not be accepted, except by emailed permission of the instructor requested before the due date. While we encourage group work, all students must hand in their own copy of the assignment written in their own words.

4. Exams

The midterm and final exams will be 24 hour take-home exams which students are expected to complete alone without peer collaboration. These will contain questions similar to those in the problem sets or problems discussed in class, so your performance on problem sets should be a good indicator of performance on the exams. For the final exam, if you prefer an alternative to the take-home exam, you may opt to write a short research paper, with a topic chosen in consultation with the instructor.

Grading Breakdown:

Problem Sets	40%
Midterm Exam	30%
Final Exam (or substitute)	30%

Course/Classroom Policies

- All cellphones or similar devices must be silenced in class and section. Taking calls or texting inside the classroom will not be tolerated.
- Your laptop/tablet should only be open for the purposes of note-taking, or viewing readings or lecture notes. Repeat violators may lose laptop/tablet privileges.
- Your problem set responses should be typed. We are happy to give you help on software for tree-drawing.
- Lecture attendance will be considered mandatory, as it is key to your success in this course. In the event of an unavoidable absence, inform the instructor by email as soon as possible (especially if there is a problem set due!)
- Section attendance is strongly encouraged, but not mandatory.
- Questions or comments related to course material should be communicated through C*v2. If they can be dealt with through a 1-2 sentence response, the response will appear there, and will be shared if appropriate. Longer questions should be addressed in section or at office hours.

- If you need to email the instructor for any other reason, use the email address on the front page of the syllabus, and be sure to include the course number in the subject line, making sure that your email is identifiable (i.e. your yale account, or just remember to sign your name).
- In your problem set and exam submissions, it is essential that you acknowledge your sources. Citing places your work in a larger context, and establishes credibility for your ideas. This also allows the reader to differentiate your original contribution from the sources that you draw inspiration from, and allows the reader to check on your use of sources, permitting a further pursuit of the topic through the source material cited. For more on citation, consult this site from the Yale College Writing Center <http://writing.yalecollege.yale.edu/using-sources>

Rough Timeline of Topics to be Covered

1. Foundation: The basic questions of syntax, logical problem of language acquisition, syntactic reasoning. (Aug 30, Sept 4)
2. Parts of Speech: How to identify parts of speech, lexical versus functional categories, subcategories. (Sept 6, 11)
3. Phrase Structure: Evidence for hierarchy versus strings, constituency tests, representing constituent structure. (Sept 13, 18)
4. Structural Relations: Precedence, dominance, constituent command. (Sept 20)
5. Binding Theory: Antecedents, locality conditions, distribution of anaphors, pronouns, and referring expressions. (Sept 25, Oct 2)
6. X-Bar Theory: Generalising phrase structure rules. Complements, adjuncts, and specifiers. (Oct 4, 9)
7. Functional Categories: DP, CP, IP. (Oct 11, 16)
Midterm due on or about Oct 18.
8. Argument Structure: Predicates and arguments. Thematic roles. (Oct 18, 23)
9. Head movement: Verb movement in English, French, and Irish. Yes/no questions and *do*-support. (Oct 30, Nov 1)
10. DP movement: The Extended Projection Principle, passives, unaccusatives, and raising. (Nov 6, 8)
11. Raising versus Control: Distinguishing different types of embedded clause. Empty categories. (Nov 13, 15)
12. *Wh*-movement: Movement of *wh*-elements, subjacency (Minimal Link Condition or MLC) (Nov 27, 29, Dec 4)
13. Unified Theory of Movement: Move α , scope, covert movement, interactions with MLC. (Dec 6, ??)

Note: There is no class on Thursday September 27 due to a conflict with a conference. Class time will be made up during reading week at a date to be determined.

Additional Material for Grad Students

Graduate students will also attend an additional series of supplemental classes organised as a series of article presentations that will move in parallel with the main lecture component of the course. These meetings will provide exposure to classic papers in the literature which underlie the course material, while moving on to cover more contemporary accounts, and accounts from alternate frameworks. Additionally, there will be an extra component to most weekly problem sets that will either go more deeply into the regular course material, or reference the supplementary readings.

Meeting One: Theoretical Foundations. Reading: Chomsky (2005)

Meeting Two: Constituency and Hierarchy. Readings: Larson (1988); Harley (2002)

Meeting Three: Extending Binding Theory. Readings: Reinhart and Reuland (1993); Sells (1987)

Meeting Four: Head Movement. Readings: Pollock (1989); Koisumi (2000)

Meeting Five: Passivization. Readings Jaeggli (1986); Collins (2005)

Meeting Six: Raising without Movement. Readings: Joshi and Schabes (1997); Sag et al. (1992)

Meeting Seven: Subjacency. Readings: Watanabe (1992); Phillips (2006)

References

- Chomsky, Noam. 2005. Three factors in language design. *Linguistic Inquiry* 36:1–22.
- Collins, Chris. 2005. A smuggling approach to the passive in English. *Syntax* 8:81–120.
- Harley, Heidi. 2002. Possession and the double object construction. *Linguistic Inquiry* 2:29–68.
- Jaeggli, Osvaldo. 1986. Passive. *Linguistic Inquiry* 17:587–622.
- Joshi, Aravind K., and Yves Schabes. 1997. Tree-adjointing grammars. Unpublished Manuscript.
- Koisumi, Masatoshi. 2000. String vacuous overt verb raising. *Journal of East Asian Linguistics* 9:227–285.
- Larson, Richard. 1988. On the double object construction. *Linguistic Inquiry* 19:335–391.
- Phillips, Colin. 2006. The real-time status of island phenomena. *Language* 82:795–823.
- Pollock, Jean-Yves. 1989. Verb movement, universal grammar, and the structure of ip. *Linguistic Inquiry* 20:365–424.
- Reinhart, Tanya, and Eric Reuland. 1993. Reflexivity. *Linguistic Inquiry* 24:657–720.
- Sag, Ivan A, Lauri Karttunen, and Jeffrey Goldberg. 1992. A lexical analysis of Icelandic case. In *Lexical matters*, ed. Ivan A Sag and Anna Szabolcsi, 301–318. Stanford: Stanford University.
- Sells, Peter. 1987. Aspects of logophoricity. *Linguistic Inquiry* 18:445–480.
- Watanabe, Akira. 1992. Subjacency and S-structure movement of *wh*-in-situ. *Journal of East Asian Linguistics* 1:255–291.