

## LING 401: Syntactic Analysis I – Winter 2010

Time and Place: TR 9:30-10:45 a.m., SB 105  
Instructor: Dr. M. McGinnis (Blackboard says “Archibald”), SS 828, 220-6119,  
mcginnis@ucalgary.ca  
Office hours: Tuesdays at 1 p.m., and by appointment  
TA: Jamison Cooper-Leavitt, SS 815, 220-6122, jecooper@ucalgary.ca

This is an intermediate course in syntactic theory. The emphasis is on analysis and argumentation. The goal of the course is to develop research skills in syntax, as well as to become familiar with issues and techniques central to Minimalist syntactic theory.

### Course materials and outline

Adger, David. 2003. *Core syntax: A Minimalist approach*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.  
*Note:* The lectures will depart somewhat from the organization and details of the textbook. However, the text is an excellent resource, and you should prepare for each lecture topic by reading the relevant section(s). You should also carefully read the chapter(s) relevant to your research paper.

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Prepare</u>
<hr/> <i>Part 1: Syntactic operations</i> <hr/>		
Jan. 12-14	Introduction; Merge: selection	ch. 3
Jan. 19-21	Agree: (un)interpretable features	ch. 6
Jan. 26-28	Move: EPP	ch. 6
Feb. 2	<i>Special lecture:</i> How to write a research paper	
<hr/> <i>Part 2: Argument structure</i> <hr/>		
Feb. 4-11	Types of subjects	ch. 6
Feb. 14-21	<i>Reading week: No lectures</i>	
Feb. 23-25	The double object construction	ch. 4
Mar. 2-4	Nominalizations	ch. 7
<hr/> <i>Part 3: Clause structure and movement</i> <hr/>		
Mar. 9-11	Head movement: V-to-T; Split IP	ch. 5
Mar. 16-18	Head movement: T-to-C; V2	ch. 8
Mar. 23	<i>Special lecture:</i> Serial verb constructions	
Mar. 25-30	Control vs. ECM/raising	ch. 8
<hr/> <i>Part 4: Locality constraints on movement</i> <hr/>		
Apr. 6-8	Superiority	ch. 9
Apr. 13-15	Wh-islands	ch. 10

**Prerequisite:** C- (or better) in LING 301 or equivalent.

### Grading scheme and deadlines

Participation	5%	throughout
Topic idea	1%	January 21
Tree-drawing exercise	20%	February 4
Paper proposal	14%	February 23
Presentation	15%	Thursdays, January 28-April 8
Final paper	45%	April 15

The letter grades assigned will correspond to the percentages below:

A+	95-100%	B+	80-84%	C+	65-69%	D+	52-54%
A	90-94%	B	75-79%	C	60-64%	D	50-51%
A-	85-89%	B-	70-74%	C-	55-59%	F	below 50%

### **Attendance and meeting deadlines**

If you have an acceptable, documented reason for missing a deadline (your serious injury or illness, or the birth, marriage, critical illness, or death of an immediate family member), you may request a short extension. For longer delays, the weight of the assignment may instead (at the instructor's discretion) be transferred to the final paper. **Late assignments without an acceptable, documented justification will lose one full letter grade (e.g., from A to B) for each week or part of a week that the assignment is handed in late.**

### **Academic integrity**

You should be familiar with the Calendar section on academic misconduct (pp. 49-51), which describes the consequences of plagiarism or cheating (F grades, probation, expulsion, etc.).

#### **Plagiarism and Academic Misconduct**

Plagiarism involves submitting or presenting work in a course as if it were the student's own work done expressly for that particular course, when, in fact, it is not. Most commonly, plagiarism exists when:

- a) the work submitted or presented was done, in whole or in part, by an individual other than the one submitting or presenting the work (this includes having another impersonate the student, or otherwise substituting the work of another for one's own in an examination or test),
- b) parts of the work are taken from another source without reference to the original author,
- c) the whole work (e.g. an essay) is copied from another source, and/or
- d) a student submits or presents work in one course which has also been submitted in another course (although it may be completely original with that student) without the knowledge of or prior agreement of the instructor involved.

While it is recognized that scholarly work often involves reference to the ideas, data and conclusions of other scholars, intellectual honesty requires that such references be explicitly and clearly noted. No assignments in this course call for students to work in groups. Thus, students must write up their own answers for submission of the assignment. Failure to do so constitutes plagiarism.

Plagiarism is an extremely serious academic offence. Possible penalties for plagiarism include: failing the assignment, failing the course, disciplinary probation, suspension, or expulsion.

Any student who voluntarily and consciously aids another student in the commission of plagiarism is also guilty of academic misconduct.

### **Questions?**

If you have any questions relating to this course, please contact Jamison or Dr. McGinnis. For questions about the Linguistics program, please contact one of our Undergraduate Advisors, Dr. McGinnis or Dr. Suzanne Curtin (SS 842, 220-3927, [ling.undergrad@ucalgary.ca](mailto:ling.undergrad@ucalgary.ca)). Another good resource is Verbatim, the Undergraduate Linguistics Club (SS 803, 220-7153, [verbatim@ucalgary.ca](mailto:verbatim@ucalgary.ca)).