



Faculty of Arts  
School of Languages, Linguistics, Literatures and Cultures

Linguistics 611  
Advanced Syntactic Analysis  
Fall 2020  
Tuesdays and Thursdays 14:00-15:15 Mountain Time (Synchronous by Zoom)

COURSE OUTLINE

**INSTRUCTOR'S NAME: Dennis Ryan Storoshenko**

**OFFICE HOURS:** Wednesdays and Thursdays 11:30-12:30 (Mountain Time) via Zoom, appointments can also be scheduled by email

**E-MAIL:** [dstorosh@ucalgary.ca](mailto:dstorosh@ucalgary.ca) (Responses within 24 hrs on weekdays, anything received after 18:00 Friday will be responded to by 12:00 the following business day)

**TELEPHONE NUMBER:** 403-220-6119 (Voicemail will be checked only weekly)

**DESCRIPTION**

This course takes a deeper look at the principles on Minimalist Syntax, including more advanced topics in the analysis of Ellipsis, A'-Movement, and Binding Theory. There is a greater emphasis on reading primary literature, and exposure to data from languages other than English.

**OBJECTIVES**

Students should be more familiar with the concepts of derivational timing and the use of overarching rules of the Minimalist Theory as motivation for a given analysis. Students will also begin to look critically at the style of argumentation presented in the reading, learning to contrast between an argument proceeding from empirical facts to a theoretical conclusion, versus an argument based in theoretical assumptions with empirical facts used as post hoc support.

**OUTCOMES**

Students will have greater facility in abstract argumentation key to primary syntax literature, as well as a deeper understanding of the overall theory. Students will be required to produce a term paper of sufficient quality for conference submission (papers from this course often become presentations at regional or national level conferences). Presentation skills are also developed, along with the ability to engage in "on your feet" thinking through seminar-style discussion.

**REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS**

Hornstein, Norbert; J. Nuñez; and K. Grohmann. 2005. *Understanding Minimalism*. Cambridge University Press. Available online through the university library.

Additional papers will be uploaded to D2L.

**RECOMMENDED COURSE MATERIALS**

Students should be familiar with at least one form of electronic syntax tree generation, either through LaTeX document formatting, jsSyntax Tree (<https://ironcreek.net/syntaxtree/>), or TreeForm (<https://sourceforge.net/projects/treeform/>)



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**COURSE NOTES**

All times given are local Mountain Time (note there will be a switch from MDT to MST during the term).

Classes will be held twice a week beginning Sept 8, excluding reading week (Nov 9-13), and there will only be one session on the week of Dec 8. All meetings will be synchronous by Zoom (as above) to discuss course readings, share presentations, and well as answer questions regarding upcoming problem sets. To expedite discussions, some reviews of core concepts from the textbook and solutions to problem sets will be pre-recorded and delivered asynchronously.

The University's full technological requirements for online courses The University's full technological requirements for online courses (including links to financial support to meet these needs) can be found here: <https://elearn.ucalgary.ca/technology-requirements-for-students/>. The key list of items is reproduced below:

- A computer with a supported operating system, as well as the latest security, and malware updates;
- A current and updated web browser;
- Webcam/Camera (built-in or external);
- Microphone and speaker (built-in or external), or headset with microphone;
- Current antivirus and/or firewall software enabled;
- Stable internet connection

For this course, Zoom capability, and all associated secure connectivity, with audio is essential for the synchronous sessions. Video is encouraged in this relatively small group, if the student feels comfortable. For presentations, students will be expected to screenshare their materials, though wide latitude is available in choosing a format (e.g. virtual handout or slides, as has become the norm for online conferences, pre-recorded A/V presentation, etc...). Stable internet connections will be helpful, though there will be flexibility if your living situation does not make this possible during class time.

When not speaking, students should have their microphones muted. Students are free to interrupt and ask questions during class; this is a seminar-style class where discussion is encouraged. The Raise Hand feature in Zoom can be used, but an unmuted microphone, or direct interruption of the instructor are also fine as signals to speak. Students should respect each other's speaking time, instructor will moderate discussion as needed.

Participation in zoom discussions, asking questions and interacting during peers' presentations, will be one of the key metrics for participation. Weekly discussion boards will be maintained, with a topic for each reading. Those who are unable to participate in the synchronous sessions may participate in discussions. No formal attendance at synchronous Zoom sessions will be taken.

Zoom sessions will not and should not be recorded, either in Zoom or externally.

All readings are available by .pdf download. Students are encouraged to download textbook chapters well in advance. Students need a .pdf reader.

All written work is to be submitted as a .pdf, saved from the editing software of the student's choice. **WORD DOCUMENT FORMATS (e.g .doc(x)) ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE FOR SUBMISSION; use the "Save As..." function and select .pdf as the file type.** For the final paper, all tree diagrams must be generated electronically (relevant tools will be discussed in class). For the problem sets, tree diagrams may be hand drawn, photographed, and embedded into a document before conversion to .pdf. No unembedded image files will be accepted; all submissions for the seven key written deliverables (5 problem sets, 1 abstract, 1 paper) must be in a single .pdf file.

Each problem set will give specific guidelines on the expected answers (e.g. "one or two sentences", "A paragraph", "bullet point stepwise derivation"). The abstract should conform to the abstract submission guidelines of the CLA Annual Conference. The term paper should conform to the Universal Style Sheet for Linguistics, as described by the LSA. Exact details will be given in class.



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Problem sets may be submitted late, with an up to 10% penalty, for one week after the due date. Problem sets cannot be submitted after the answers have been discussed (one week after the due date).

Course evaluations will be online via D2L.

**ASSESSMENT**

**DISTRIBUTION OF GRADES**

Problem Sets 25% (5 x 5%)

(Due 23:59 on Sept 24, Oct 8, Oct 22, Nov 5, Dec 3; Distribution and submission by D2L Dropbox)

Presentations (in Zoom synchronous sessions) 20% (2 x 10%)

One presentation on a paper from the reading list (Maximum one student per class, Sept 22 to Dec 3)

One presentation on the student's own project (Dec 8 synchronous session)

Abstract of Final Project (One page, due 23:59 Nov 17 by D2L Dropbox) 10%

Final Paper (Due 23:59 Dec 11) 35%

Class Participation (in Zoom synchronous sessions and/or D2L Discussion Boards) 10%

**NOTE THERE IS NO FINAL EXAM FOR THIS COURSE**

**GRADING SCALE**

A+ = 100-97 A = 93-96 A- = 92-88 B+ = 87-83 B = 82-78 B- = 77-73 C+ = 72-68 C = 67-63

C- = 62-58 D+ = 57-53 D = 52-50 F = 49%

**INTEGRITY AND CONDUCT**

All members of the University community have a responsibility to familiarize themselves with the Statement on Principles of Conduct, and to comply with the University of Calgary Code of Conduct and Non-Academic Misconduct policy and procedures (available at: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>).

**Academic misconduct**

1. **Plagiarism** is a serious offence, the penalty for which is an F on the assignment and possibly also an F in the course, academic probation, or requirement to withdraw. 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."

Plagiarism occurs not only when direct quotations are taken from a source without specific acknowledgement but also when original ideas or data from the source are not acknowledged. A bibliography is insufficient to establish which portions of the student's work are taken from external sources; footnotes or other recognized forms of citation must be used for this purpose.

2. **Cheating** at tests or examinations includes but is not limited to dishonest or attempted dishonest conduct such as speaking to other candidates or communicating with them under any circumstances whatsoever; bringing into the examination room any textbook, notebook, memorandum, other written material or mechanical or electronic device not authorized by the examiner; writing an examination or part of it, or consulting any person or materials outside the confines of the examination room without permission to do so, or leaving answer papers exposed to view, or persistent attempts to read other students' examination papers.



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3. **Other academic misconduct** includes, but is not limited to, tampering or attempts to tamper with examination scripts, class work, grades and/or class records; failure to abide by directions by an instructor regarding the individuality of work handed in; the acquisition, attempted acquisition, possession, and/or distribution of examination materials or information not authorized by the instructor; the impersonation of another student in an examination or other class assignment; the falsification or fabrication of clinical or laboratory reports; the non-authorized tape recording of lectures.

4. Any student who voluntarily and consciously aids another student in the commission of one of these offences is also guilty of academic misconduct.

#### **INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND COPYRIGHT LEGISLATION**

Course materials created by instructors (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the instructor. These materials may not be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the instructor. All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright.pdf>) and requirements of the Copyright Act (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorised sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy.

#### **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PRIVACY (FOIP) ACT**

Graded assignments will be retained by the Department for three months and subsequently sent for confidential shredding. Final examinations will be kept for one calendar year and subsequently sent for confidential shredding. Said material is exclusively available to the student and to the department staff requiring to examine it. Please see <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/foip> for complete information on the disclosure of personal records.

#### **ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS**

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations according to the University policies and procedures listed below. The student accommodation policy can be found at: <https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/access/prospective-students/academic-accommodations>.

Students needing an Accommodation because of a Disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/procedure-for-accommodations-for-students-with-disabilities.pdf>.)

Students needing an Accommodation in relation to their coursework or to fulfil requirements for a graduate degree, based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to their Instructor or the Department Head/Dean or to the designated contact person in their Faculty.

#### **FACULTY OF ARTS PROGRAM ADVISING AND STUDENT INFORMATION RESOURCES**

Have a question, but not sure where to start?

The Arts Students' Centre is the overall headquarters for undergraduate programs in the Faculty of Arts. The key objective of this office is to connect students with whatever academic assistance they may require.

In addition to housing the Associate Dean (Undergraduate Programs and Student Affairs) and the Associate Dean (Teaching, Learning & Student Engagement), the Arts Students' Centre is the specific home to:

- Program advising
- Co-op Education Program
- Arts and Science Honours Academy
- Student Help Desk

Location: Social Sciences Room 102

Phone: 403-220-3580



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Email: [ascarts@ucalgary.ca](mailto:ascarts@ucalgary.ca)

Website: [arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate](http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate).

For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at 403-210-ROCK [7625] or visit them at the MacKimmie Block.

Contacts for the Students' Union Representative for the Faculty of Arts: [arts1@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts1@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts2@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts2@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts3@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts3@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts4@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts4@su.ucalgary.ca).

#### **INTERNET AND ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION DEVICES**

Devices such as laptops, palmtops and smartbooks are allowed provided that they are used exclusively for instructional purposes and do not cause disruption to the instructor and to fellow students. Cellular telephones, blackberries and other mobile communication tools are not permitted and must be switched off.

#### **SUPPORT AND RESOURCES**

Links to information that is not course-specific related to student wellness and safety resources can be found on the Office of the Registrar's website: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines>.