

Department of Anthropology
Anth 2248A – Introduction to Syntax and Semantics
Course Outline
Fall 2016

Classes: Wednesdays 6:30-9:30pm, UCC 37

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NOTE: *This syllabus may be adjusted as required throughout the term. All students are responsible for attending class for information in this regard. Unless you either have the prerequisites for this course (Anthro 1027A/B, Ling 2288A/B) or have written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you will be removed from the course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.*

Prerequisites: Anthropology 1027A/B or Linguistics 2288A/B.

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Course Description

Syntax is a study of sentence structure: how words are organized into larger meaningful units. Semantics is a study of the way these meaningful units are interpreted. This course examines the nature of speakers' underlying knowledge of the rules for combining words into higher-order structures. We will address the fundamental similarities in sentence patterning among different languages. We look at lexical categories, lexical semantics, constituency, dependency, grammatical relations, argument structure and sentential semantics, focusing especially on the relation between semantic structure and syntactic structure.

Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Know the basic syntactic terminology (e.g., specifier, adjunct, constituent, binding, X-bar rules, functional categories)
- Understand the basics of linguistic argumentation
- Understand a scientific approach to the study of sentence structure (i.e., observation of data → formulation of a hypothesis → testing the hypothesis with a new data → modifying initial hypothesis → testing it with data, etc.)
- Analyze data from a variety of languages proposing a sound syntactic analysis related to structure of phrases and sentences
- Evaluate different proposals of syntactic analysis
- Analyze word order in different languages
- Describe linguistic variation

Methods

The following methods will be used during this course: class lectures (complementing the textbook)

- reading at home and raising questions
- solving problem sets
- discussions in class

Important: reading the textbook will not replace class lectures and discussions in class. In order to obtain a good mark, you should regularly attend classes. If you have a reason to be absent, let me know in advance.

Evaluation

Final exam (in exam period)	30%
Test 1	15%
Test 2	20%
Problem sets (best 5 out of 6)	25%
In class participation	10%

Course Materials

Carnie, Andrew. 2013. *Syntax: Generative Introduction*. Third edition. Wiley-Blackwell.

Carnie, Andrew. 2012. *The Syntax Workbook: A Companion to Carnie's Syntax*. Wiley-Blackwell.

The final exam and ***the tests*** will present problem sets based on the material presented in class and in the book.

Problem sets will be assigned regularly. It is important to do them individually without any extra help. It will help you to understand theoretical concepts covered in class. They will also prepare you for the tests and the final exam.

Participation is your regular attendance and involvement in all classroom activities and discussion. The discussion will be incorporated throughout the class. Your regular contributions will help you better understand the studied topics and will play a significant role in your overall success in this course.

Submission of assignments

The assignment will be submitted at the beginning of class. Assignments submitted through email are not accepted.

Penalties

- (1) No make-up quiz/test will be made.
- (2) Late assignments will lose 25% for each calendar day. Exceptions will be made only in the event of illness or other reasonable excuses (provided that the necessary documentation is submitted).

Grades cannot be adjusted for the reason of need (e.g. I just need two points), performance in other courses (e.g. I am an "A" student), poor performance due to illness or personal problems (unless documented and on file with the Academic Counseling Office of your Faculty).

Electronic devices

During regular classes, the only allowable electronic device is a laptop computer and it should be used solely for the purpose of taking notes related to the class. Mobile phones, ipods, mp3 players etc. must be turned off during class. Electronic distractions will count against your participation mark. No electronic devices are allowed during the tests and exams.

Academic Policies

All students should familiarize themselves with Western's current academic policies regarding **accessibility, plagiarism and scholastic offences, and medical accommodation**. These policies are outlined (with links to the full policies) at:

http://anthropology.uwo.ca/undergraduate/course_information/academic_policies.html

Tentative Calendar (may be subject to change)

<i>Week 1</i> (Sept 14)	Generative Grammar. Foundations. Parts of speech.	Ch.1-2
<i>Week 2</i> (Sept 21)	Constituency, trees and structural relations. From Phrase Structure Rules to X-Bar Theory.	Ch.3-4 Problem Set 1
<i>Week 3</i> (Sept 28)	X-bar Theory	Ch.6 Problem Set 2
<i>Week 4</i> (Oct 5)	X-bar Theory (con't)	Ch.7
<i>Week 5</i> (Oct 12)	Test 1	
<i>Week 6</i> (Oct 19)	Binding Theory	Ch. 5
<i>Week 7</i> (Oct 26)	Thematic Relations Auxiliaries & Functional Categories	Ch. 8-9 Problem Set 3
<i>Week 8</i> (Nov 2)	Head-to-Head Movement DP Movement	Ch. 10-11 Problem Set 4
<i>Week 9</i> (Nov 9)	Wh-Movement	Ch.12
<i>Week 10</i> (Nov 16)	Test 2	
<i>Week 11</i> (Nov 23)	Expanded VPs	Ch. 14 Problem Set 5
<i>Week 12</i> (Nov 30)	Raising, Control, Empty Categories	Ch. 15 Problem Set 6
<i>Week 13</i> (Dec 7)	Review	