The University of Western Ontario
Department of Anthropology

Anthropology 2248A/001, Introduction to Syntax and Semantics
Fall 2009

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Office hours: M 11:30–12:20, W 10:30–11:20
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Place: SSC 3102

Course Aims

- Knowledge of traditional and modern grammatical terms and concepts
- Ability to think and write about grammatical concepts
- Ability to apply this knowledge in practical grammatical analysis
- Understanding of major syntactic structures of English
- Understanding of variety of syntactic features and relationships found in the languages of the world
- Understanding of the elements of morphology and the relationship of morphology to syntax
- Understanding of the elements of semantics and the relationship of semantics to syntax

Required Text


Additional Material

- Hudson, Richard. ms. Encyclopedia of English Grammar and Word Grammar. [EEGWG] [Available at http://www.phon.ucl.ac.uk/home/dick/enc-gen.htm] (Mac or Linux users should download enc.zip; PC users enc.zip or enc-book.exe)

¹NOTE: This syllabus may be adjusted as required throughout the term. All students are responsible for attending class for information in this regard.
Course Requirements and Evaluation

Evaluation will be based on attendance & participation, weekly homework assignments, a term test, and a text analysis of a passage of prose of approximately 100 words. The text will be marked two times: first for lexical class identification and coordination, second for dependencies.²

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance &amp; participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Weekly homework</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Test (M Nov 16)</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Text analysis (graded 2x: W Oct 21, W Nov 25)</td>
<td>50%</td>
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Topic Schedule and Reading Assignments

Week 1 (M Sep 14, W Sep 16): Introduction; Word Classes; Categorization
EG, Ch. 1: Word classes: nouns and verbs
EEGWG: word-class, noun, verb, part of speech
WGC: 5; 10.1, 6.1-6.3; 2.1-2.2

Week 2 (M Sep 21, W Sep 23): Morphology; Inheritance
WGC: 10.2, 10.4, 6.5, 6.7; 2.3-2.5

Week 3 (M Sep 28, W Sep 30): Simple Noun Expansions; Relations, Landmarks
EG, Ch. 2: Noun expansions: heads, dependents & adjectives
EEGWG: dependency, dependent, head, parent, phrase, phrase structure
WGC: 10.3 (as relevant), 7.4 (landmarks); 3.1-3.2, 3.4.3

Week 4 (M Oct 5, W Oct 7): Coordination; strings, features, choices
EG, Ch. 3: Prepositions and coordinators
EEGWG: coordination, coordinator, correlative conjunctions, word-string, preposition, no-dangling principle
WGC: 11.5, 7.5; 3.3

Week 5 (M Oct 12 [Thanksgiving], W Oct 14): Types of noun; Dependency vs. Constituency
EG, Ch. 4: Pronouns, determiners and other nouns
EEGWG: noun, pronoun, determiner
WGC: 10.1, 10.3 (as relevant); 11.1, 7.1

²Choose a passage with a variety of constructions, e.g. a relative clause, an indirect question, a passive clause, coordinated clauses, etc. (a checklist will be provided to assist you with this), but avoid passages which repeat the same construction. Also avoid extensive coordination. You needn’t confine yourself to ‘good’ literature (although that is fine to use): guidebooks written for tourists, textbooks, instruction manuals, reviews, CD liner notes are all good possibilities. Avoid most children’s literature (because it tends to be highly repetitive). The passage must be approved by me or Kristen.
Week 6 (M Oct 19, W Oct 21): Verbal Dependencies; Text Analysis 1
EG, Ch. 5: Verbs expansions: subjects, objects, sharers and adverbs
EG, Ch. 6: Verb chains: auxiliary/full verbs, finiteness
EEGWG: subject, object, sharer, adverb, predicative adjective, indirect object, prepositional, free complement, particle, grammatical function
WGC: 11.2 (pp.239ff.), 11.6 (Subj-Aux Inversion only), 10.1 (auxiliary verbs only (pp.210-213))

Week 7 (M Oct 26, W Oct 28): Verb Chains; Valency
EG, Ch. 7: Verb chains: to, that, not and clauses
EEGWG: (post-)adjunct, (pre-)complement, valent, valency, (pre-/post-)post-dependent
WGC: 7.2

Week 8 (M Nov 2, W Nov 4): Clauses I
EG, Ch. 8: Subordinate Clause Clues
EEGWG: subordination, subordinating conjunction, clausal subject, relative clause, relative pronoun, wh-pronoun

Week 9 (M Nov 9, W Nov 11): Clauses II
EG, Ch. 9: Subordinate Clause Uses
EEGWG: topics for Week 8 plus: passive, prepositional passive, raising

Week 10 (M Nov 16, W Nov 18): Extraction & Extraposition; Test
EG, Ch. 10: Sentences and information
EEGWG: extraction, extractee, expletive, extraposition, apposition, apposition, distance, it-extraposition
WGC: 11.6, 7.6

EEGWG: conceptual structure, encyclopedic meaning, lexeme, prototype, semantics, sense
WGC: 8.7.1 – 8.7.2

Week 12 (M Nov 30, W Dec 2): Semantics II
EEGWG: argument structure, co-reference, default inheritance, er, ee, inheritance, inheritance hierarchy, multiple inheritance, proposition, semantic phrasing
WGC: 8.7.3

Week 13 (M Dec 7, W Dec 9): AOB

Responsibilities
My Responsibilities
• to be prepared for every class
• to mark students’ work fairly
• not to assign work beyond students’ abilities
• to organize the material of the course so that all sections contain approximately equal amounts of material
• to select course material in terms of its importance to the subject (and not, e.g., in terms of its interest to me)

Your responsibilities
• to attend each class, to listen carefully, to ask questions when something is unclear
• to manage your time so that this course is not disadvantaged relative to other courses
• to turn in all required work on or before the date on which it is due
• to keep yourself healthy

Remember that
Grades are a reflection of your performance in this course. They cannot be awarded on the basis of
• need (“I just need two more points to make the Dean’s Honour Roll.”)
• your performance in other courses (“I’m an ‘A’ student.”)
• making allowance for poor performance due to illness or personal problems (unless documented and on file with the Academic Counselling Office of your Faculty)

Senate Academic Handbook
The UWO Senate Academic Handbook has specified that the following points should be added to all course outlines:

• Plagiarism: Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offense (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

• Plagiarism Checking: The University of Western Ontario uses software for plagiarism checking. Students may be required to submit their written work and programs in electronic form for plagiarism checking.

• Course Prequisites: Unless you either have the prerequisites for this course 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.
• If computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams are given, use may be made of software to check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.