

Department of Linguistics
University of Calgary
Term/Year: Fall 2010

LING 301: ENGLISH SYNTAX

Days and Time: Tuesday/Thursday 12:30-13:45

Room: SB 144

Instructor: Dr. Carlos de Cuba

Office: SS 832

Telephone: 403-220-7316 (e-mail better)

E-mail: cfdecuba@calgary.ca

Office Hours: Wed. 2-3pm, and by appointment

T.A.: Keffyalew Gebregziabher

Office: SS 815

Telephone: 403-220-6122

E-mail: kggebreg@ucalgary.ca

Office Hours: TBA

COURSE DESCRIPTION (SHORT)

This course is an introduction to syntax within the framework of generative grammar. The emphasis is on description, with some analysis and argumentation. The goal is to become familiar with core facts of English syntax, as well as with theoretical issues and analytical techniques.

COURSE DESCRIPTION (LONG)

The course will adopt the primary goal of modern generative linguistics - that of explaining the form and acquisition of the knowledge that humans have of their native language. The particular aspect of this knowledge that will be addressed in this course concerns syntactic form. Out of the infinity of possible combinations of words from a given language, only a subset of these form sequences that native speakers of that language will recognize as well-formed sentences, and among those sentences, speakers are able to recognize examples of, for example, ambiguity and paraphrase. The primary goal of syntactic theory is to provide an explicit general account of how the well-formed sentences are constructed and how the other properties (ambiguity, paraphrase, etc.) can be derived. Further goals include providing a general theory of syntax that is cross-linguistically valid and plausible from the standpoint of language acquisition. Furthermore, since syntactic knowledge is but one part of the knowledge of language that humans have, the theory should mesh well with theoretical approaches to phonological, morphological, and semantic phenomena. The approach to understanding all of these aspects of linguistic knowledge taken together involves the postulation of an abstract grammar, of which the syntax is one part.

This semester we will build up a version of the so-called 'Government and Binding' (GB) or 'Principles and Parameters' (PAP) theory as a general approach to the syntactic component. This theory is the most well-known among linguistics departments, and it is the one that workers in other related fields in Cognitive Science (psychology, philosophy, computer science, etc.) are most likely to be aware of these days. We will outline the components of the theory and use them in descriptions of syntactic constructions from English and a sampling of other languages. Primary emphasis will be placed on gaining proficiency in the technical aspects of the theory and gaining practice in syntactic argumentation and analysis.

COURSE TEXT

Carnie, Andrew. 2007. *Syntax: A Generative Introduction*. Oxford: Blackwell Publishing, Second Edition.

PREREQUISITE

You must have received a grade of at least C- in Linguistics 201 (Introduction to Linguistics I) in order to take this course.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

ATTENDANCE

The lectures will be organized around the topics discussed in the text, and I may at times depart from the book, omitting, expanding upon, or taking issue with certain material. The material will increase in complexity as the semester goes on, and later coursework will build upon earlier coursework. Regular attendance is therefore very important, as is class discussion. While I will not be taking attendance, in my experience poor attendance almost always results in poor grades. So, skip class at your own peril. **You are responsible for any material you miss if you miss class, so please do not ask me or the T.A. to recreate lessons you have missed during office hours.**

HOMEWORK (PROBLEM SETS), EXAMS AND GRADING

Problem sets: Because the best way to learn about syntax is by DOING syntax, there will be a number of problem sets assigned for homework throughout the semester. Problem sets are *due at the beginning of the next class meeting*, unless otherwise stated. Because we will be discussing the problems in class, *late assignments will NOT be accepted*. Problem sets need to be done neatly – *messy, illegible work will not be accepted*. I suggest working in pencil! Homework problem sets will be scored on a 5-point scale:

- 0 - Not handed in/handed in late.
- 1 - No solution, difficult to tell if problem was understood, omitted questions.
- 2 - Attempt made, but missed the point, omitted questions.
- 3 - Basic ideas understood, but significant gaps and confusion, omitted questions.
- 4 - Good. Got the point, but had some mistakes or unclear thinking.
- 5 - Excellent. Clear and correct solutions - well done and concise.

Exams and quizzes: There will be three cumulative exams (necessarily cumulative, given the semester long building of the theory). **No make-up exams will be allowed without an excellent, well documented excuse (i.e. a doctor's note).**

EVALUATION

Assignments (best 6 of 7)	20%	See Course Schedule below
Midterm 1	25%	Tuesday, October 12, 2010
Midterm 2	25%	Tuesday, November 9, 2010
Final Exam	30%	Scheduled by the Registrar

GRADING SCHEDULE

A+ = 97-100 %	B+ = 85-88%	C+ = 74-77%	D+ = 62-66%
A = 92-96 %	B = 81-84%	C = 70-73%	D = 58-61%
A- = 89-91 %	B- = 78-80%	C- = 67-69%	F = 0-57%

BLACKBOARD

We will be using the Blackboard facility in this class. Announcements, homework, and other important information will be posted on the class site. Be sure to check it regularly. You can access class information on-line at < <https://blackboard.ucalgary.ca> > Some announcements may be distributed via email. Make sure that the correct address is listed in Blackboard, and be sure to check your email regularly.

PRELIMINARY COURSE SCHEDULE (subject to revision as needed)

Date	Topic	Readings (for the next class)
Sept 14	Course Overview/Generative Grammar/Syntax	(Carnie Chapter 1) (Pinker Ch. 1)
Sept 16	Syntactic Categories	(Carnie Chapter 2)
Sept 21 Sept 23	Word order and constituency, Trees and Rules Word order and constituency, Trees and Rules (Homework 1 assigned, due Sept. 28 th)	(Carnie Chapter 3)
Sept 28 Sept 30	Word order and constituency, Trees and Rules Structural Relations (Homework 2 assigned, due Oct. 5 th)	(Carnie Chapter 4)
Oct 5 Oct 7	Structural Relations/Binding Theory Binding Theory/Review	(Carnie Chapter 5)
Oct 12 Oct 14	MIDTERM EXAM 1 X-bar Theory	(Carnie Chapter 6)
Oct 19 Oct 21	X-bar Theory X-bar Theory (Homework 3 assigned, due Oct. 26 th)	(Pinker Chapter 4)
Oct 26 Oct 28	X-bar Theory & Functional Categories Constraining X-bar Theory (Homework 4 assigned, due Nov. 2 nd)	(Carnie Chapter 7)
Nov 2 Nov 4	Constraining X-bar Theory Constraining X-bar Theory/Review	(Carnie Chapter 8)
Nov 9 Nov 11	MIDTERM EXAM 2 NO CLASS (Thanksgiving)	
Nov 16 Nov 18	Head Movement Head Movement (Homework 5 assigned, due Nov. 23 rd)	(Carnie Chapter 9)
Nov 23 Nov 25	DP-Movement DP-Movement (Homework 6 assigned, due Nov. 30 th)	(Carnie Chapter 10)
Nov 30 Dec 2	Wh-Movement Wh-Movement (Homework 7 assigned, due Dec. 7 th)	(Carnie Chapter 11)
Dec 7 Dec 9	A Unified Theory of Movement A Unified Theory of Movement/Review	(Carnie Chapter 12)
FINAL EXAM as scheduled by registrar		

GENERAL COURSE/UNIVERSITY INFORMATION FOR ALL STUDENTS

LINGUISTICS STUDENT ADVISING

For any questions regarding the linguistics major or minor, the organization of your program, or the selection of courses, you can see the linguistics under/graduate advisor/coordinator:

Dr. Robert Murray	SS 824	403-220-8109	ling.undergrad@ucalgary.ca
Dr. Steve Winters	SS 814	403-220-7230	ling.undergrad@ucalgary.ca
Dr. Suzanne Curtin	SS 842	403-220-3927	linggrad@ucalgary.ca

FACULTY of ARTS PROGRAM ADVISING and STUDENT INFORMATION

For questions about interdisciplinary programs, to see an Associate Dean, to inquire about COOP, or for general information, please visit the new Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre located in Social Science, Room 110. You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate>.

For program planning and advice, contact the Student Success Centre (formerly the Undergraduate programs Office) at (403) 220-5881 or visit us at the 4th Floor of MacEwan Student Centre.

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

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of this course.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PRIVACY ACT (FOIP)

The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act was enacted by the Alberta Legislature on June 1, 1994. The Act is intended first of all to allow any person the right of access to the records in the custody and under the control of a public body although this right is subject to limited and specific exceptions. The Act also includes a strong right to privacy component, allowing individuals to control the manner in which a public body collects personal information, to control the use that a public body may make of the information, and to control the disclosure of that information by a public body. It also allows individuals the right of access to personal information about themselves held by a public body and the right to request corrections to that information.

For more information on FOIP, please visit: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/secretariat/privacy>
Or contact Jo-Anne Munn Gafuik at (403) 220-3602 or by email: munngefufu@ucalgary.ca

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:

1. 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),
2. parts of the work are taken from another source without reference to the original author,
3. the whole work (e.g. an essay) is copied from another source, and/or
4. 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. Students are encouraged to work together in preparing homework assignments. However, unless noted otherwise in writing, 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.

For more information on academic misconduct and related UofC regulations please consult the Student Misconduct web pages in the on-line University Calendar. These can be found at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>

EMERGENCY EVACUATION / ASSEMBLY POINTS

The University of Calgary is committed to creating a safe and healthy living and learning environment. The health and safety of our employees, students and the general public are the highest priority of the University of Calgary's Emergency Management Program. During times of emergency, Assembly Points have been identified across campus. These areas have been selected as they are large enough to hold a significant number of people and will provide an evacuated population access to washroom facilities and protection from the elements.

Assembly points are also designed to establish a location for information updates:

- from the emergency responders to the evacuees; and
- from the evacuated population to the emergency responders.

Please familiarize yourself with the Emergency Assembly Points listed here:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>

And the Emergency Instructions listed here: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/node/28>

SAFE WALK INFORMATION

Twenty four hours a day and seven days a week Safewalk volunteers walk people safely to their destination on campus. This service is free and available to students, staff and campus visitors.

Requesting Safewalk volunteers to walk with you is easy!

- Call 403-220-5333 (24 hours a day/seven days a week, 365 days a year)
- Use the Help Phones (they are not just for emergencies)
- Approach an on-duty Safewalker and request a walk

For more information call the Safewalk office at 403-220-4750 or email safewalk@ucalgary.ca.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE INFORMATION

The Students' Union in partnership with the University of Calgary and the Graduate Students' Association (GSA) offers students a key advocacy resource to assist in addressing concerns and issues they encounter at the university with the Office of the Student Ombuds.

Students in undergraduate programs, please contact the Student's Union:

<http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/home/contact.html>

Students in graduate programs, please contact the GSA: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/gsa/>

Student Ombudsman: <http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/services/student-services/student-rights.html>