

<i>Instructor:</i>	Colin Davis
<i>Place:</i>	Online
<i>Time:</i>	W 2:30 - 3:50 and TH 12:30 - 1:50
<i>Office hours:</i>	By appointment
<i>Contact:</i>	colind@usc.edu

1 Course description

This course is an introduction to the empirical results and major theoretical developments in generative syntax. It will provide you with the knowledge and skills necessary to read and critically evaluate past and current work, and to begin to do your own research in syntax.

2 Course requirements

- *Attendance & participation*

Since we're a small group, attendance is particularly important. However, for the same reason our agenda is potentially more flexible than usual, so don't be afraid to interrupt me to ask for clarification or further information. I am also available for office hours by request.

- *Readings*

Most weeks will require you to do some reading before class. Following previous versions of this course, I will assign many readings from David Adger's textbook *Core Syntax*, but we will also read many actual articles as well. Only some readings will be obligatory.

- *Assignments*

Some weeks will require you to complete a problem set or equivalently relevant assignment. The point of these tasks is to provide opportunities for practice, and to explore and evaluate the concepts discussed in class. As such, many problems will not have a single correct solution. Creativity is welcome, and working together is encouraged.

- *Final paper*

This course will require you to write a final paper on a topic in syntax of your choosing—presumably, but not necessarily, one of the topics we will discuss. Among your homework assignments will be proposing a topic, and I will compel you to schedule office hours to discuss your proposed topic with me.

- *Presentation*

Since presenting research is an important skill for academic life, your final assignment will be to give a conference-length presentation about your paper topic (20-30 minutes) on the last day of class.

- *Grading*

Homeworks 20%, participation 40%, final paper and presentation 40%

3 Website

You should have access to the course website through the Blackboard system via your USC account. All readings and assignments will be posted here. If you have trouble with the website, let me know, and I'll make sure you get access to whatever you need.

4 Schedule (Tentative)

- *Week 1 - 8/19: Introduction, phrase structure, X-bar theory*

Readings: None

Homework: None

- *Week 2 - 8/26: Binding theory*

Readings: TBA

Homework: TBA

- *Week 3 - 9/2: Subjects, the vP hypothesis, A-movement*

Readings: TBA

Homework: TBA

- *Week 4 - 9/9: Intransitives*

Readings: TBA

Homework: TBA

- *Week 5 - 9/16: Ditransitives*

Readings: TBA

Homework: TBA

- *Week 6 - 9/23: Raising and control*

Readings: TBA

Homework: TBA

- *Week 7 - 9/30: Case*

Readings: TBA

Homework: TBA

- *Week 8 - 10/7: Agreement*
Readings: TBA
Homework: TBA
- *Week 9 - 10/14: The left periphery, A-bar movement, islands*
Readings: TBA
Homework: TBA
- *Week 10 - 10/21: Head movement and V2*
Readings: TBA
Homework: TBA
- *Week 11 - 10/28: The structure of nominals and the DP hypothesis*
Readings: TBA
Homework: TBA
- *Week 12 - 11/4: Open week for spillover or a topic of our choice*
Readings: TBA
Homework: Finish your presentation.
- *Week 13 - 11/11: Final paper presentations*