

LING 530 · Generative syntax

Syllabus

Fall 2022

Time: Thu 10:00am – 12:20pm

Room: GFS 330

Instructor: Travis Major
3601 Watt Way
GFS 332

Office hours: By Appointment

Email: tmajor@usc.edu

1 General course description

The 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

2.1 Class attendance and active participation

Active participation in the class discussion is very important. Don't be shy about asking questions! Especially if you haven't had much prior experience in syntax, it is vital that you speak up in class, as otherwise we might be moving along too fast. If you feel like you don't understand something, you are very likely not the only one.

2.2 Readings

The course reading materials will be made available on the Blackboard course page. There will be required readings, and there will be optional ones, which are recommended.

2.3 Homework assignments

There will be frequent homework assignments, typically given out on Thursday and due the following Thursday. You are encouraged to work on them together, but you need to write them up individually. Please submit them to me as a hard copy.

2.4 Term paper

At the end of the course, you will write a term paper on a topic of your choosing that is related to the topics covered in class. This should not be a topic that you have worked on before (i.e., it has

to be new work). A proposal and outline of the paper is due on **November 6th**. You will also give a short presentation in class on the paper during the last two classes of the semester. The final paper itself is due at the end of the finals period, on **December 9th**. Please submit both to me electronically as a PDF file.

2.5 Grading

Homework assignments:	40%
Class participation:	20%
Term paper + presentation:	40%

2.6 Important dates (tentative)

10/9: Snippet (1-2 pages) due
11/6: Proposal + Outline
12/2: Final Presentations (in class)
12/9: Final Paper due

3 Recommended textbooks

To get us up to speed, we will work through Adger (2003) in combination with original readings. When we have developed a solid grounding in contemporary syntax, we will look at some more advanced areas. For the purposes of this class, the following textbooks are particularly helpful:

Adger, David (2003). *Core Syntax: A Minimalist Approach*. Oxford University Press.

Baltin, Mark and Chris Collins (2003/2008). *The Handbook of Contemporary Syntactic Theory*. Blackwell.

Bošković, Željko and Howard Lasnik (2007). *Minimalist Syntax: The Essential Readings*. Blackwell.

Culicover, Peter (1997). *Principles and Parameters: An Introduction to Syntactic Theory*. Oxford University Press.

Everaert, Martin and Henk van Riemsdijk (eds.) (2006). *The Blackwell Companion to Syntax*. Blackwell.

Haegeman, Liliane (1994). *Introduction to Government and Binding Theory*. Blackwell.

Hornstein, Norbert, Jairo Nunes, and Kleanthes K. Grohmann. (2005) *Understanding Minimalism*. Cambridge University Press.

Lasnik, Howard (2000). *Syntactic Structures Revisited: Contemporary Lectures on Classic Transformational Theory*. MIT Press.

Lasnik, Howard and Juan Uriagereka with Cedric Boeckx (2005). *A Course in Minimalist Syntax: Foundations and Prospects*. Blackwell.

4 Blackboard

The course readings and homework assignments will be posted on the course Blackboard page.

5 The class e-mail list

I will send important announcements via e-mail. If you are registered for the class, you should be on the email list. Keep in mind that all emails will be sent to your USC email account. Make sure to check this account regularly.

6 Tentative schedule

References are provided at the end of the syllabus. Reading should be done before class (excluding week 1, of course).

1. Introduction (8/25)

- *Obligatory:*
Adger (2003: ch. 1–2)
Chomsky (1965: ch. 1)
- *Recommended:*
Matthewson (2004)

2. Phrase structure (9/1)

- *Obligatory:*
Adger (2003: ch. 3)
Adger (2003: 104–122)
- *Recommended:*
Hornstein, Nunes, and Grohmann (2005: 174–196)
Stowell (1981: ch. 2)
Chomsky (1995)

3. VP shells (9/8)

- *Obligatory:*
Adger (2003: 122–149)

- *Recommended:*
Larson (1988)
Baker (1997)

4. More on VP shells (9/15)

- *Obligatory:*
Kratzer (1996)
- *Recommended:*
Ramchand (2008)
Folli and Harley (2005)

5. TPs and head movement (9/22)

- *Obligatory:*
Adger (2003: ch. 5)
- *Recommended:*
Roberts (2003)

6. Head movement and word order (9/29)

- *Obligatory:*
Pollock (1989)

7. Subjects and objects (10/6)

- *Obligatory:*
Adger (2003: ch. 6)
- *Recommended:*
Johnson (1991)
Baker, Johnson, and Roberts (1989)
Bobaljik and Jonas (1996)
McCloskey (1997)

8. No Class - Fall Break (10/13)

9. Hierarchies (10/20)

- *Obligatory:*
Ramchand and Svenonius (2014)
Cinque and Rizzi (2015)
- *Recommended:*
Cinque (1999)
Cinque (2004)

10. DP structure (10/27)

- *Obligatory:*
Adger (2003: ch. 7)
- *Recommended:*
Longobardi (1994)
Ritter (1995)
Boškovic (2008)

11. Case/Agreement (11/3)

- *Obligatory:*
Preminger (2011: ch. 2) Hornstein et al. (2005: ch. 4)
Deal (2022)
- *Recommended:*
Deal (2015)
Woolford (1997)
Legate (2008: sect. 1+2)
Baker (2015) Bobaljik (2008)

12. CPs, control, and raising (11/10)

- *Obligatory:*
Adger (2003: ch. 8)
Landau (2013: ch. 1+3)
- *Recommended:*
Zaenen, Maling, and Thráinsson (1985)
Polinsky and Potsdam (2002)

13. Wh-movement and locality (11/17)

- *Obligatory:*
Adger (2003: ch. 9+10)

14. No Class - Thanksgiving (11/24)**15. Final Presentations (12/1)****7 Academic conduct**

Plagiarism – presenting someone else’s ideas as your own, either verbatim or recast in your own words – is a serious academic offense with serious consequences. Please familiarize yourself with the discussion of plagiarism in SCampus in Section 11, *Behavior Violating University Standards* (<https://scampus.usc.edu/1100-behavior-violating-university-standards-and-appropriate-sanctions>). Other forms of academic dishonesty are equally unacceptable. See additional information in SCampus and university policies on scientific misconduct, <http://policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct>.

Discrimination, sexual assault, and harassment are not tolerated by the university. You are encouraged to report any incidents to the *Office of Equity and Diversity* (<http://equity.usc.edu>) or to the *Department of Public Safety* (<http://adminopsnet.usc.edu/departments/departments-public-safety>). This is important for the safety of the whole USC community. Another member of the university community – such as a friend, classmate, advisor, or faculty member – can help initiate the report, or can initiate the report on behalf of another person. The *Center for Women and Men* (<http://www.usc.edu/student-affairs/cwm/>) provides 24/7 confidential support, and the sexual assault resource center webpage (<http://sarc.usc.edu>) describes reporting options and other resources.

8 Students with disabilities

If you have a disability that requires special arrangements (e.g., note- and/or test-taking), please register with USC’s *Office of Disability Services and Programs*. Every effort will be made to accommodate those with registered disabilities.

References

- Adger, David. 2003. **Core Syntax**. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Baker, Mark. 1997. Thematic Roles and Syntactic Structure. In **Elements of Grammar**, edited by Liliane Haegeman, 73–137. Dordrecht: Kluwer Academic Publishers.
- Baker, Mark. 2015. **Case: its principles and its parameters**. No. 146. Cambridge University Press.
- Baker, Mark, Kyle Johnson, and Ian Roberts. 1989. Passive Arguments Raised. **Linguistic Inquiry** 20(2):219–251.

- Bobaljik, Jonathan David. 2008. Where's Phi? Agreement as a Postsyntactic Operation. In **Phi Theory**, edited by Daniel Harbour, David Adger, and Susana Béjar, 295–328. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Bobaljik, Jonathan David and Dianne Jonas. 1996. Subject Positions and the Roles of TP. **Linguistic Inquiry** 27(2):195–236.
- Boškovic, Željko. 2008. What will you have, np or dp? In **Proceedings of NELS 37**, 101–114. Amherst, MA: GLSA.
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- Cinque, Guglielmo. 1999. **Adverbs and functional heads: a cross-linguistic perspective**. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Cinque, Guglielmo. 2004. Restructuring and functional structure. **Structures and beyond: The cartography of syntactic structures** 3:132–191.
- Cinque, Guglielmo and Luigi Rizzi. 2015. 65The Cartography of Syntactic Structures. In **The Oxford Handbook of Linguistic Analysis**. Oxford University Press.
- Deal, Amy Rose. 2015. Interaction and satisfaction in -agreement. In **The Proceedings of NELS 45**, edited by T. Bui and D. Ozyildiz, 1–14.
- Deal, Amy Rose. 2022. Current models of agree.
- Folli, Raffaella and Heidi Harley. 2005. Flavors of v. In **Aspectual Inquiries**, 95–120. Springer.
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- Johnson, Kyle. 1991. Object positions. **Natural Language and Linguistic Theory** 9(4):577–636.
- Kratzer, Angelika. 1996. Severing the external argument from its verb. In **Phrase Structure and the Lexicon**, edited by Johan Rooryck and Laurie Zaring, 109–137. Dordrecht, The Netherlands: Kluwer Academic Publishers.
- Landau, Idan. 2013. **Control in generative grammar: a research companion**. Cambridge.
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- Legate, Julie Anne. 2008. Morphological and Abstract Case. **Linguistic Inquiry** 39(1):55–101.
- Longobardi, Giuseppe. 1994. Reference and proper names. **Linguistic Inquiry** 25(4):609–666.
- Matthewson, Lisa. 2004. On the methodology of semantic fieldwork. **International Journal of American Linguistics** 70(4):369–415.
- McCloskey, James. 1997. Subjecthood and subject positions. In **Elements of grammar**, edited by Liliane Haegeman, 197–235. Dordrecht: Kluwer Academic Publishers.
- Polinsky, Maria and Eric Potsdam. 2002. Backward Control. **Linguistic Inquiry** 33(2):245–282.
- Pollock, Jean-Yves. 1989. Verb Movement, UG and the Structure of IP. **Linguistic Inquiry** 20:365–424.
- Preminger, Omer. 2011. Agreement as a Fallible Operation. PhD Thesis, MIT.
- Ramchand, Gillian. 2008. **Verb Meaning and the Lexicon: A First-Phase Syntax**. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

- Ramchand, Gillian and Peter Svenonius. 2014. Deriving the functional hierarchy. **Language sciences** 46:152–174.
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- Stowell, Timothy Angus. 1981. Origins of phrase structure. Ph.D. thesis, Massachusetts Institute of Technology.
- Woolford, Ellen. 1997. Four-way case systems: Ergative, nominative, objective and accusative. **Natural Language & Linguistic Theory** 15(1):181–227.
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