

LING 302: INTRODUCTION TO SYNTAX
FALL 2024
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Days and Times: Mon & Wed, 12:00pm – 1:50pm
Room: GFS 222
Instructor: Carolina Fraga
GFS 332
Office Hours: Thursday 1:00pm – 2:00pm and by appointment
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is an introduction to syntax, the study of phrase structure in human language. Through examination of primarily English data (while also making reference to other languages), students will develop various skills in scientific analysis, such as: the identification of evidence to support hypotheses; the ability to deduce the nature of lexical and functional categories (such as nouns, verbs, adjectives, determiners, auxiliaries, complementizers, etc.); and the ability to recognize the structural relations (such as precedence, dominance, c-command), the abstract properties, elements, and movement operations which give rise to the variety of surface forms that we recognize as distinct “constructions,” such as active vs. passive, interrogatives, and relative clauses.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- Attendance and class participation (20%)
- Weekly quizzes (40%)
- Tree drawing evaluations (40% in total, 20% each)

ATTENDANCE AND CLASS PARTICIPATION

Attendance and class participation are required. There are 27 class meetings, and students are expected to attend and participate in all of them, **with an allowance of two absences**. This means that students who make 25 class meetings get 10 out of 10 for this component. After that, every missed class is 0.8 points off the final grade calculation. For example, if a student were to miss 5 classes (beyond the allowed 2 absences), they would get 4 points off their final grade. If they were to miss all 25 class meetings (beyond their allowed two absences), they would get 0 for this component, and 20 points off their final grade. This means that even if they had an average of 100 in all quizzes and their two tree drawing evaluations, their final grade would be a B- (80/100: 0 for attendance and class participation, 40 for quizzes, and 40 for exams).

WEEKLY QUIZZES

There are 11 quizzes. The lowest grade is dropped, so the grade for this component is calculated on the average score of 10 quizzes. Quizzes will be made available Wednesday morning, and they will be due by 11:59pm of the Friday of that week.

TREE DRAWING EVALUATIONS

There will be two tree drawing evaluations in class. The first tree drawing evaluation will cover the topics seen in chapters 1 – 8 (which correspond roughly to basic notions and the base). The second one will cover the topics discussed in chapters 9 – 12 (which focus on movement, namely, head movement, DP movement, and *wh*-movement).

REQUIRED TEXT

Carnie, Andrew. 2021. *Syntax: A Generative Introduction*. Fourth Edition. Wiley-Blackwell.

ACCOMMODATION FOR 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 Students Accessibility Services or OSAS (<https://osas.usc.edu>). This office is committed to providing programs and services to facilitate disabled students' full participation at USC. Every effort will be made in this class to accommodate those students with special needs.

DIVERSITY STATEMENT

This class strives to be a community where everyone feels welcome, valued, and respected. Because we all come from different backgrounds, have different ideas, and hold different world views, this course is a unique opportunity for all of us to learn from each other. Although we may not share the opinions and views of other members of the class, all contributions will be given equal consideration. Disagreement is healthy, and it will be handled in a civil environment, with care and respect. We should all remember at all times that our class community is open to all, and rejects all discrimination on the basis of gender, gender identity, gender expression, disability, age, color, race, ethnicity, religion, political affiliation, national origin, or any other grounds.

POLICY ON PLAGIARISM

In this course, students are allowed to (and even encouraged to!) discuss questions and course materials with their classmates (unless specifically asked not to do so, of course). However, they must be aware that all of the following offences (listed in https://ece-classes.usc.edu/ee591/pvs_sem/fall09/acad_integ.pdf) constitute plagiarism and will not be tolerated under any circumstances: (a) submitting material authored by another and represented as the student's own work; (b) acquiring work from any source and presenting it as the student's own

work, (c) copying work or ideas in verbatim or near verbatim form and not correctly referencing the source.

COURSE SCHEDULE

CLASS NOTES

- The readings for each week must be done **before** the meeting for each week.
- You must **always** have your book with you for class meetings.
- For each of the two tree drawing evaluations, we will have a **Review Week** before the evaluation takes place.
- The three classes marked with a red star (*), **and only those three**, will be held on Zoom.

CLASS	TOPIC	READING
1 Monday 08/26	Syllabus & Intro to the course	<i>No reading</i>
2 Wednesday 08/28*	Basic concepts Syntax as a science. Syntax as a cognitive science. Competence vs. performance.	• Carnie Ch. 1
Monday 09/02	*** <i>Labor Day, no class</i> ***	
3 Wednesday 09/04	Parts of speech Nouns, Verbs, Adjectives, Prepositions, Adverbs. Open vs. closed. Lexical vs. functional. Subcategories and features.	• Carnie Ch. 2
4 Monday 09/09	Constituency Constituency tests. Structural ambiguity.	• Carnie Ch. 3
5 Wednesday 09/11	Structural relations Dominance. Precedence. C-command.	• Carnie Ch. 4
6 Monday 09/16	Binding Theory Coindexing. Antecedents. Binding. Principles A, B & C.	• Carnie Ch. 5

7 Wednesday 09/18	X-bar Theory I Refining phrase structure: the X-bar schema.	• Carnie Ch. 6
8 Monday 09/23	X-bar Theory II Complements vs. adjuncts. Parameters of word order.	• Carnie Ch. 6
9 Wednesday 09/25*	X-bar Theory III Class Practice	• Carnie Ch. 6
10 Monday 09/30	Extending X-bar Theory to Functional Categories I DPs, CPs, Tense/Perfect/Progressive/Voice Phrases.	• Carnie Ch. 7
11 Wednesday 10/02	Extending X-bar Theory to Functional Categories II Class Practice	• Carnie Ch. 7
12 Monday 10/07	Theta Theory Theta roles. The lexicon. Expletives and the Extended Projection Principle.	• Carnie Ch. 8
13 Wednesday 10/09	Review	• Carnie Ch. 1 – 8
14 Monday 10/14	Tree drawing evaluation in class	<i>No reading</i>
15 Wednesday 10/16	The selectional properties of functional categories The restrictions that aspect, voice, C, T and D categories impose on their complements.	• Carnie Ch. 9
16 Monday 10/21	Head-to-Head Movement I V to T movement. T to C movement. <i>Do</i> -support	• Carnie Ch. 10
17 Wednesday 10/23*	Head-to-Head Movement II Class Practice	• Carnie Ch. 10

18 Monday 10/28	DP Movement I Passivization. Case.	• Carnie Ch. 11
19 Wednesday 10/30	DP Movement II Raising. Unaccusatives.	• Carnie Ch. 11
20 Monday 11/04	DP Movement III Class Practice	• Carnie Ch. 11
21 Wednesday 11/06	Wh-Movement I Yes-No questions. <i>Wh</i> -questions.	• Carnie Ch. 12
Monday 11/11 <i>***Veteran's Day, no class***</i>		
22 Wednesday 11/13	Wh-Movement II Relative clauses. Relative clauses vs. Noun complement clauses.	• Carnie Ch. 12
23 Monday 11/18	Wh-Movement III Class Practice	• Carnie Ch. 12
24 Wednesday 11/20	Review	• Carnie Ch. 9 – 12
25 Monday 11/25	Tree drawing evaluation in class	<i>No reading</i>
Wednesday 11/27 <i>***Thanksgiving Recess, no class***</i>		
26 Monday 12/02	A Unified Theory of Movement I Islands & The Minimal Link Condition	• Carnie Ch. 13
27 Wednesday 12/04	A Unified Theory of Movement II Scope & Covert Movement	• Carnie Ch. 13