



Department of Linguistics
Spring 2010

LNG 320: INTRODUCTION TO SYNTAX

Dr. Dimitrios Ntelitheos

Time:	Sunday/Tuesday 3:30pm – 4:45pm
Venue:	MQ, 71/B08
Date Range:	Feb 07, 2010 - Jun 03, 2010
Office hours:	Sunday/Tuesday 11am-1pm (Also available by appointment)
Tel.:	03-037134733
Email:	dimitrios_n@uaeu.ac.ae
Language of instruction:	English
Prerequisites:	LNG200

1. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course serves as an introduction to syntactic analysis and argumentation within the generativist tradition, as laid out in the body of work initiated by Chomsky. Students will be exposed to the underlying assumptions and basic constructs of Generative Grammar and its relevance to the theory of language in general; become familiar with syntactic analyses and the formal terminology used in syntactic work; and be able to apply this knowledge in the study of their own language. The course covers a variety of foundational topics in syntactic theory, including the position of syntax within cognitive science, grammatical categories and features as the building blocks of syntax, syntactic constituency and tree-representation of constituents, binding theory and structural relations, X'-theory and its extension to the functional domain, and finally how the lexicon constraints the application of X'-rules. Assigned problems and discussion focus on several different languages in addition to English.

2. TEACHING METHODS

Instruction will be student-centered. Students are required to read the assigned material and write and/or answer specific questions relevant to the reading before they come to class. They are expected to participate in class discussions. Discussion is essential to the success of the course. Your participation is the only indicator that you read carefully and critically. Every effort will be made to ensure that the atmosphere in the class is welcoming and encouraging so that everybody can share their ideas and be respected. It is important that you pay attention and are engaged in class by asking questions and expressing your point of view. The students will use readings and exercises to be provided by the instructor but are encouraged to consult additional sources.

3. COURSE OBJECTIVES AND COURSE OUTCOMES

Objectives <i>What the teacher will do</i>	Outcomes <i>How the student will benefit</i>
Familiarize students with the basic goals and assumptions of generative grammar	Students will understand the basic goals and assumptions of generative grammar
Train students in the rudiments of syntactic analysis and syntactic theorizing and argumentation	They will be able to analyse basic sentences in different languages and provide structural analyses of these sentences
Familiarize students with the major syntactic structures of English and other languages and their relevance to linguistic theory.	They will become familiar with the basic structures of English and other languages and be able to graphically represent these structures

4. STUDENTS RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Students must attend class regularly.
2. Students must do the readings before they come to class (ways to test this may be used)
3. Students are expected to actively participate to class discussions (this would count in the evaluation).
4. Students who have missed class for any reason are responsible for finding out what information has been missed and are encouraged to talk to the instructor and/or classmates.
5. Missed quizzes may be made up only in cases of emergency (family or medical; a note from a doctor is to be provided). Tests will not be made up otherwise.

5. GRADING SCHEME

1. Mid-term Exam	20%	
2. Final Exam		40%
3. Quizzes	10%	One quiz every 8 weeks (overall: 2 quizzes)
4. Home assignments	20%	One assignment every 4 weeks (overall 4 assignments)
5. Class participation	10%	

6. TENTATIVE COURSE OUTLINE

Week 1	Introduction to the course
Weeks 2 & 3	Generative Grammar
Weeks 4 & 5	Parts of Speech
Weeks 6 & 7	Constituency Trees and rules
Week 8	Structural relations
Weeks 9 & 10	Binding Theory
Weeks 11 & 12	X-Bar Theory
Weeks 13 & 14	Extending X-Bar Theory to Functional Categories

7. QUIZ AND ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE

Week

2	Assignment 1
4	Quiz 1
6	Assignment 2
8	Quiz 2
9	Mid-term exam
11	Assignment 3
13	Quiz 3
15	Assignment 4

8. TEACHING MATERIALS

1. Carnie, A. 2002. *Syntax. A Generative Introduction*. Blackwell Publishing. (Primary Textbook)
2. Tallerman, Maggie. 2005. *Understanding Syntax*. Oxford University Press.
3. Radford, A. (1988) *Transformational Grammar*. Cambridge Textbooks in Linguistics
4. Sag, I. and T. Wasow and E. Bender (2003) *Syntactic Theory: A Formal Introduction, Second Edition*. CSLI Publications