LING 461
Syntax I
Autumn 2016, University of Washington
Instructor: Edith Aldridge

Syllabus

Instructor: Edith Aldridge
Email: aldr@uw.edu
Office: 415F Guggenheim Hall
        Department of Linguistics
Phone: (206)685-4845
Office hours: By appointment

Time: MW 10:30 - 12:20
Location: SAV 166

Overview and objectives:
This course is the first in the two-quarter undergraduate syntax series and introduces the
fundamental concepts of the theory of Generative Grammar and its methodology. You will be
expected to practice this methodology through homework problems, exams, and a short project.
Topics to be covered include the X’-Theory approach to phrase structure and transformational
rules, a topic which will be continued in LING 462: Syntax II.

Students in LING 461 will be expected to master the concepts introduced and be able to
apply them to data in a range of languages. You will also practice locating and using primary
literature (linguistic publications) to find data on different languages. Finally, you will make a
brief oral report on your findings.

Classroom Conduct:
Syntax I is a challenging course which prepares students to do coursework at the graduate level.
To this end, there are in-depth classroom discussions and problem-solving practice during class
times. For this reason, all students are expected to attend every class period and arrive on time
for every meeting. Disruptive behavior of any sort during class times will not be tolerated.
Examples of disruptive include (but are not limited to) coming in late, leaving early, chatting,
shuffling papers, snoring, listening to music, packing early, and cell phone ringing.

If there is a rare occasion when you have to leave early or come late, please notify me in advance
and sit as close to the door as possible so as to limit the disturbance to others.

Grading: Exams (1&2): 50%
Homework: 25%
Project: 15%
Reading questions: 10%
100%
Final grade calculation:  
\[
\begin{align*}
95\% &= 4.0 \\
94\% &= 3.9 \\
93\% &= 3.8 \\
92\% &= 3.7 \\
91\% &= 3.6 \\
90\% &= 3.5 \\
\vdots \\
62\% &= 0.7 \\
61\% \text{ and below is a failing grade} &= 0.0
\end{align*}
\]

**Reading**
You should complete the assigned readings before the lecture. The readings complement the lectures and provide the necessary background; however, you should not assume that they will be fully summarized or reviewed in class.

**Textbook**

**Reading Questions**
You will be given a list of questions to answer about each reading. You are required to submit your answers by the beginning of class on the day that the reading will be discussed. The purpose is to help you understand the readings and prepare for class discussions. Your answers will not be graded for content. But I will check to make sure that you made a sincere effort to answer each question on the basis of the material.

**Class Participation**
Attendance and participation are important components of success in this course. There will be discussions of the textbook chapters, homework problems, exams, etc. There will also be frequent small-group practice which is intended to prepare students for homework assignments and exams. In my teaching experience, I have observed that students who are prepared for each class and actively participate in discussions gain a better understanding of the material and earn higher grades than those who do not.

**Exams**
Both exams will be in class, closed book. Note exam dates in the course schedule. There will be no opportunities to retake, postpone, or take an exam early. Make-up exams will only be allowed for (1) University sanctioned events (verification required) or (2) extraordinary circumstances (verification required – e.g., physician's note). If you know you are going to miss an exam for either of these reasons, please notify me as soon as possible BEFORE the exam so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

**Homework**
Problems will be assigned from the book, approximately one problem set per week. You will have one week to do them.
Homework problems must be submitted by the beginning of class on the due date. Late homework will not be accepted. Extra credit/make-up/redo homework will not be assigned. If you must be absent on the day that homework is due, you may make your submission electronically or place a hardcopy in my mail box in the Linguistics Department office.

Please either type your homework assignments or write them very neatly and legibly. Illegible homework assignments will not be given credit.

You may work with classmates in order to figure out the homework problems. But all work you turn in must be exclusively your own. You must turn in the original copy of your homework assignment. I do not accept photocopies.

Guidelines for academic honesty must be adhered to.

**Guidelines for academic honesty**
You are required to include appropriate citations for any resources you consult. Please familiarize yourself with the following information concerning student conduct and academic honesty, and note that the same rules apply to web resources (such as Wikipedia).


Similar information can be found at the following link by navigating to “What is academic misconduct?” on the side menu.

http://www.washington.edu/uaa/advising/at-the-uw/not-doing-well/

**Project**
You will investigate a language that is significantly different from any language you speak or have studied and make a short presentation (approximately 5-minutes) to the class on the syntax of that language. Please avoid commonly taught languages in the Romance (e.g. French, Italian, Spanish, etc.) and Germanic (e.g. Dutch, English, Scandinavian, etc.) families. Also, do not choose a language closely related to one you are already familiar with. Please consult me if you are unsure whether your chosen language meets the qualifications.
## Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wk</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wk 1</td>
<td>9/28</td>
<td>Introduction Ch. 1</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Wk 2</td>
<td>10/3, 10/5</td>
<td>Parts of Speech Ch. 2</td>
<td>Constituency Ch. 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wk 3</td>
<td>10/10, 10/12</td>
<td>Constituency Ch. 3</td>
<td>Structural Relations Ch. 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wk 4</td>
<td>10/17, 10/19</td>
<td>Binding Theory Ch. 5</td>
<td>PROJECT DISCUSSION</td>
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<td>Wk 5</td>
<td>10/24, 10/26</td>
<td>X’-Theory Ch. 6</td>
<td>REVIEW</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wk 6</td>
<td>10/31, 11/2</td>
<td>EXAM 1</td>
<td>X’-Theory Ch. 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wk 7</td>
<td>11/7, 11/9</td>
<td>Extending X’-Theory Ch. 7</td>
<td>Constraining X’-Theory Ch. 8</td>
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<td>Wk 8</td>
<td>11/14, 11/16</td>
<td>Auxiliaries and Functional Categories Ch. 9</td>
<td>Auxiliaries and Functional Categories Ch. 9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wk 9</td>
<td>11/21, 11/23</td>
<td>10 Head-to-head movement</td>
<td>PRESENTATIONS</td>
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<td>Wk 10</td>
<td>11/28, 11/30</td>
<td>PRESENTATIONS</td>
<td>PRESENTATIONS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wk 11</td>
<td>12/5, 12/7</td>
<td>REVIEW</td>
<td>EXAM 2</td>
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*Note: This schedule is subject to change.*