**Ling 580: The Status of (the Null Subject) Parameter(s) in the Minimalist Program**  
*Winter 2008*

**Meeting Time:** Wed 3:30-5:50 pm  
**Location:** MGH 297

**Instructor:** Barbara Citko  
**Instructor’s Office:** Padelford A210D  
**Office Hours:** Mon 1-2pm, Fri 9-10am  
**Office Phone:** 3-6502 (no voicemail)  
**Email:** bcitko@u.washington.edu

**Course Website:**  
https://catalysttools.washington.edu/workspace/bcitko/9190/

**Course Description:**

This course deals with the current status of parameters in linguistic theory. We will use the Null Subject Parameter as a case-study, and focus on the following questions:

- What is the nature (and current status) of null subjects?
- What is the range of crosslinguistic variation with respect to null subjects (canonical pro-drop, partial pro-drop, radical pro-drop languages)?
- What is the current status of the Null Subject Parameter?
- What is the current status of parameters in general?

**Course Materials:**

There is no textbook for this course. The readings (to be completed before class) involve a selection of articles to be made available electronically, either through UW’s library or on the course website. This is a reading intensive course; be prepared to read around 100-150 pages (*of pure syntax*) per week.

**Requirements:**

Successful completion of this course will depend on the following factors:

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Course Schedule (subject to change)

I. Jan 13: Introduction/Overview/Crucial Issues


II. Jan 20: Does pro exist?


III. Jan 27: Alternatives to pro


IV. Feb 3: Clustering Properties of Null Subject Languages


V. Feb 10: Partial Pro-Drop


VI. Feb 17: Radical Pro-Drop


VII. Feb 24: Parameters: Debate


VIII. March 3: Parameters Continued


IX. March 10: Macro versus Microparameters


X. March 17: Presentations

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Below are some dissertations/theses to get you started on researching possible paper topics:


Sheehan, Michelle. 2006. The EPP and null subjects in Romance. Newcastle University, Ph.D. diss.