



Faculty of Arts
School of Languages, Linguistics, Literatures and Cultures

Linguistics 401

Syntax II

Winter 2021

Tuesdays and Thursdays 15:30-16:45 Mountain Time (Synchronous by Zoom)

COURSE OUTLINE

INSTRUCTOR'S NAME: Dennis Ryan Storoshenko

OFFICE HOURS: Wednesdays and Thursdays 12:30-13:30 (Mountain Time) via Zoom, appointments can also be scheduled by email

E-MAIL: dstorosh@ucalgary.ca (Responses within 24 hrs on weekdays, anything received after 18:00 Friday will be responded to by 12:00 the following business day)

TELEPHONE NUMBER: 403-220-6119 (Voicemail will be checked only weekly)

DESCRIPTION

This course provides an introduction to Minimalism as an approach syntactic analysis with an emphasis on feature-driven derivation, and the analysis of empty categories through the comparison of Control, Raising, and ECM. Concepts of movement and agreement introduced in 301 are formalized as part of a larger system.

OBJECTIVES

- Train students in the treatment of syntactic trees as representing a stepwise derivation, and not simply a static object
- Introduce the concept that cross-linguistic variation in syntax can be captured through distinction in formal features
- Give experience reading primary literature in syntax
- Develop writing skills and introduce the basic structure and rhetorical style of formal linguistic writing

OUTCOMES

- Students will be able to translate between tree structures and a written/oral stepwise description of a derivation
- Students will be able to diagnose various types of non-finite embedded clause structures (ECM, Raising, Control)
- Students will produce a short (~2000 word) paper on a topic of their choice

REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS

Adger, David. 2003. *Core syntax: A Minimalist approach*. Oxford: Oxford University Press

Additional papers will be uploaded to D2L.

RECOMMENDED COURSE MATERIALS

No other additional recommended texts. Students will need to find additional resources for their papers, so access to library resources will likely be required.



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COURSE NOTES

All times given are local Mountain Time (note there will be a switch from MST to MDT during the term).

Classes will be held twice a week beginning Jan 12, excluding reading week (Feb 15-19). All meetings will be synchronous by Zoom (as above) to discuss course readings, share presentations, and well as answer questions regarding upcoming problem sets. To expedite discussions, some reviews of core concepts from the textbook and solutions to problem sets will be pre-recorded and delivered asynchronously.

The University's full technological requirements for online courses (including links to financial support to meet these needs) can be found here: <https://elearn.ucalgary.ca/technology-requirements-for-students/>. The key list of items is reproduced below:

- A computer with a supported operating system, as well as the latest security, and malware protection updates;
- A current and updated web browser;
- Webcam/Camera (built-in or external);
- Microphone and speaker (built-in or external), or headset with microphone, with ability to record audio;
- Current antivirus and/or firewall software enabled;
- Stable internet connection

For this course, Zoom capability, and all associated secure connectivity, with audio and at least the ability to view video is essential for the synchronous sessions. Stable internet connections will be helpful, though there will be flexibility if your living situation does not make this possible during class time. Core lecture material will be pre-recorded and made available on D2L in advance. Synchronous sessions will be for recaps, practice, and reviewing assignments.

When not speaking, students should have their microphones muted. The best way to get attention in class to ask a question will be to leave "???" in the chat, but when there is an open discussion or a question has been asked to the group, students can feel free to chime in by unmuting. Students should respect each other's speaking time, instructor will moderate discussion as needed.

Zoom sessions will not and should not be recorded, either in Zoom or externally.

All written work is to be submitted as a .pdf, saved from the editing software of the student's choice. **WORD DOCUMENT FORMATS (e.g .doc(x)) ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE FOR SUBMISSION; use the "Save As..." function and select .pdf as the file type.** For the final paper, all tree diagrams must be generated electronically (relevant tools will be discussed in class). For the problem sets, tree diagrams may be hand drawn, photographed, and embedded into a document before conversion to .pdf. No unembedded image files will be accepted; all submissions for the ten key written deliverables (5 problem sets, 2 take-home midterms, 1 paper proposal, 1 paper outline, 1 paper) must each be in a single .pdf file.

Each problem set will give specific guidelines on the expected answers (e.g. "one or two sentences", "A paragraph", "bullet point stepwise derivation"). Details on other materials relating to the paper will be given in class. A detailed grading rubric for the final paper will be provided, though note now that a portion of this will cover basic grammar/spelling/formatting. Students worried about their ability to write fluently should also be aware of the Writing Centre described below.

Midterm exams will have two components. The "synchronous" component will have each student receive a single sentence for which to draw a tree at the beginning of the class time on the relevant midterm date. Students will need to hand-draw the tree and submit either a scan or image of the final tree. Along with this, students must submit an audio (with or without video) narration of the steps involved in deriving the tree structure. These will be due at the end of the synchronous class time on the specified Midterm dates. Model narrations will be made available on D2L as part of the standard outside-of-class extra practice materials.



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Steps will also be regularly covered through in-class examples. All students will receive sentences of equivalent complexity, but there will be minor differences (e.g. "Alexis met the young doctor" vs "The old mechanic met John") to discourage academic misconduct. This is not "record your thought process for 75 minutes", this is "here's one problem to solve, solve it, and then verbalize your solution in a recording that should take no more than five to ten minutes to record". There will follow a 24-hour timed take-home midterm with written questions. The instructor will be checking email throughout the synchronous portion of the midterms, monitoring for clarification questions. If the questions are relevant to all students, responses will be posted to D2L in the News section. During the take-home midterms, email will be monitored from 17:00-22:00 on the day they go out, and again from 09:00 until the submission time the next day. Answers to questions will be posted to a D2L news post, collecting a compendium of questions and answers (students will be familiar with this format, as the same feedback mechanism is used when questions about assignments come in during office hours/via email). If a student is unable to complete either portion of either midterm during the scheduled time, they should contact the instructor by email as soon as possible (ideally in advance, if there is a known conflict, e.g. childcare commitment, medical appointment, etc...), and alternate timing or assessments can be arranged.

Problem sets may be submitted late, with an up to 10% penalty, for one week after the due date. Problem sets cannot be submitted after the answers have been discussed (one week after the due date). Some problem sets may include optional additional questions and/or sections where random factors (e.g. final digits of student number) will determine which portions of the assignment which students are responsible for. Where this is implemented, questions will always be multi-part and include some element of free choice (e.g. "We have reviewed four different tests for this particular syntactic structure. Everyone must apply two of the four tests to this structure: one determined by the last two digits of your student number (00-24 must use test A, 25-49 must use test B, 50-74 must use test C, 75-99 must use test D) and one additional test of your choice")

Course evaluations will be online via D2L.

ASSESSMENT

DISTRIBUTION OF GRADES

Problem Sets 25% (5 x 5%)

(Due 23:59 Jan 28, Feb 11, Mar 11, Mar 25, Apr 15; Distribution and submission by D2L Dropbox)

Synchronous Midterm (2 x 5%)

(During lecture time Feb 25, Apr 1)

Take-Home Midterm (2 x 15%)

(Available 17:00 on Feb 25 and Apr 1, due 17:00 Feb 26 and Apr 2)

Paper proposal (5%)

(Due 23:59 Feb 23)

Paper outline (5%)

(Due 23:59 Apr 8)

Final Paper (25%)

(Due 23:59 Apr 19)

NOTE THERE IS NO FINAL EXAM FOR THIS COURSE

GRADING SCALE

A+ = 100-97 A = 93-96 A- = 92-88 B+ = 87-83 B = 82-78 B- = 77-73 C+ = 72-68 C = 67-63

C- = 62-58 D+ = 57-53 D = 52-50 F = 49%

INTEGRITY AND CONDUCT



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All members of the University community have a responsibility to familiarize themselves with the Statement on Principles of Conduct, and to comply with the University of Calgary Code of Conduct and Non-Academic Misconduct policy and procedures (available at: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>).

Academic misconduct

1. **Plagiarism** is a serious offence, the penalty for which is an F on the assignment and possibly also an F in the course, academic probation, or requirement to withdraw. Plagiarism exists when:

- a) the work submitted or presented was done, in whole or in part, by an individual other than the one submitting or presenting the work (this includes having another impersonate the student or otherwise substituting the work of another for one's own in an examination or test);
- b) parts of the work are taken from another source without reference to the original author;
- c) the whole work (e.g., an essay) is copied from another source, and/or
- d) a student submits or presents work in one course which has also been submitted in another course (although it may be completely original with that student) without the knowledge of or prior agreement of the instructor involved.

While it is recognized that scholarly work often involves reference to the ideas, data and conclusions of other scholars, intellectual honesty requires that such references be explicitly and clearly noted."

Plagiarism occurs not only when direct quotations are taken from a source without specific acknowledgement but also when original ideas or data from the source are not acknowledged. A bibliography is insufficient to establish which portions of the student's work are taken from external sources; footnotes or other recognized forms of citation must be used for this purpose.

2. **Cheating** at tests or examinations includes but is not limited to dishonest or attempted dishonest conduct such as speaking to other candidates or communicating with them under any circumstances whatsoever; bringing into the examination room any textbook, notebook, memorandum, other written material or mechanical or electronic device not authorized by the examiner; writing an examination or part of it, or consulting any person or materials outside the confines of the examination room without permission to do so, or leaving answer papers exposed to view, or persistent attempts to read other students' examination papers.

3. **Other academic misconduct** includes, but is not limited to, tampering or attempts to tamper with examination scripts, class work, grades and/or class records; failure to abide by directions by an instructor regarding the individuality of work handed in; the acquisition, attempted acquisition, possession, and/or distribution of examination materials or information not authorized by the instructor; the impersonation of another student in an examination or other class assignment; the falsification or fabrication of clinical or laboratory reports; the non-authorized tape recording of lectures.

4. Any student who voluntarily and consciously aids another student in the commission of one of these offences is also guilty of academic misconduct.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND COPYRIGHT LEGISLATION

Course materials created by instructors (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the instructor. These materials may not be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the instructor. All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright.pdf>) and requirements of the Copyright Act (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorised sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PRIVACY (FOIP) ACT

Graded assignments will be retained by the Department for three months and subsequently sent for confidential shredding. Final examinations will be kept for one calendar year and subsequently sent for confidential shredding. Said material is exclusively available to the student and to the department staff requiring to examine it. Please see <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/foip> for complete information on the disclosure of personal records.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS



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It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations according to the University policies and procedures listed below. The student accommodation policy can be found at: <https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/access/prospective-students/academic-accommodations>.

Students needing an Accommodation because of a Disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/procedure-for-accommodations-for-students-with-disabilities.pdf>.)

Students needing an Accommodation in relation to their coursework or to fulfil requirements for a graduate degree, based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to their Instructor or the Department Head/Dean or to the designated contact person in their Faculty.

FACULTY OF ARTS PROGRAM ADVISING AND STUDENT INFORMATION RESOURCES

Have a question, but not sure where to start?

The Arts Students' Centre is the overall headquarters for undergraduate programs in the Faculty of Arts. The key objective of this office is to connect students with whatever academic assistance they may require.

In addition to housing the Associate Dean (Undergraduate Programs and Student Affairs) and the Associate Dean (Teaching, Learning & Student Engagement), the Arts Students' Centre is the specific home to:

- Program advising
- Co-op Education Program
- Arts and Science Honours Academy
- Student Help Desk

Location: Social Sciences Room 102

Phone: 403-220-3580

Email: ascarts@ucalgary.ca

Website: arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate.

For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at 403-210-ROCK [7625] or visit them at the MacKimmie Block.

Contacts for the Students' Union Representative for the Faculty of Arts: arts1@su.ucalgary.ca, arts2@su.ucalgary.ca, arts3@su.ucalgary.ca, arts4@su.ucalgary.ca.

INTERNET AND ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION DEVICES

Devices such as laptops, palmtops and smartbooks are allowed provided that they are used exclusively for instructional purposes and do not cause disruption to the instructor and to fellow students. Cellular telephones, blackberries and other mobile communication tools are not permitted and must be switched off.

SUPPORT AND RESOURCES

Links to information that is not course-specific related to student wellness and safety resources can be found on the Office of the Registrar's website: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines>.