

## **Linguist 200: Syntax**

### **Lectures:**

Monday 1-2 pm, 206-209 (Arts 1, Room 209)

Wednesday 11am-12pm, 206-209 (Arts 1, Room 209)

**Lecturer:** Saurov Syed **Email:** s.syed@auckland.ac.nz

**Office:** CLL Bldg 207, Room 212

**Office hours:** Wednesday 3-4 pm.

**Tutorials:** Thursday, 12-1pm, 421W-501 (Architecture - West, Room 501)  
Friday, 12-1pm, 105-012 (Clock Tower, Room 012)

### **Course description & aims**

What determines how the words in a sentence are put together in a given language? This course introduces the field of syntax, and the study of order and structure among words. Students will learn to construct and evaluate syntactic analyses and argumentation, and will be exposed to variation and universals in the syntactic patterns found in natural languages. The course will also provide an introductory survey of syntactic phenomena.

After this course, students should

- understand the larger objective of studying syntax;
- be able to think about grammar in an analytical way;
- know about the basic syntactic tools for analyzing sentences;
- be able to use these tools to represent abstract syntactic structure;
- be able to form and test hypotheses about sentence structure;
- be aware of cross linguistic syntactic variation.

### **Required Course Reading:**

#### **A. Lecture Notes**

(Redacted) lecture notes for this course will be made available through the Canvas site.

#### **B. Readings**

Readings for this course will be posted on Canvas.

Primary reading/text book: Syntax: A Generative Introduction by Andrew Carnie (3<sup>rd</sup> edition).

#### Additional Readings:

Adger, D. (2003). *Core Syntax*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Haegeman, L. (1994). *An Introduction to Government and Binding Theory*. London: Blackwell.

Pinker, S. (1994). *The Language Instinct*. New York: Harper Collins.

## Course Requirements

- **Tutorials:** The tutorials in this course are intended to help students reinforce and practice what they've learned during the lecture. Participation in the tutorials is encouraged, and will constitute 10% of the grade.
- **Lecture Attendance & Class Participation:** Much of the material you will be responsible for in the test and in the exam will be introduced during class and so consistent attendance is important, and advised.
- **Exams:** There will be one mid-term Test and one final exam. The test will be on April 18, during class time. Test can cover anything from the lectures, the tutorials, the lecture notes, or the assigned readings. Students are asked to check that they have no conflicts on these dates. Exams are **non-cumulative**.
- **Grades:** If you have a concern regarding your grade on a test or homework, you have one week from the time the grade is returned to you to address it with me. Your grade will be based on the following:

|                            |     |
|----------------------------|-----|
| Participation in Tutorials | 10% |
| Test                       | 40% |
| Final Exam                 | 50% |

## Some General Points:

- **Students with Disabilities:** Any student requesting academic accommodations based on a disability is required to provide relevant medical or professional evidence.
- **Plagiarism and Cheating:** Students who present another's ideas/words/test answers as their own, or who turn in a paper they've used for another class, are guilty of plagiarism/cheating and will receive an F on the assignment and/or an F in the class. In serious cases, the student will be referred to the central Register of Deliberate Academic Misconduct for further action. Please see the University's policies on Academic Integrity for more details:  
<https://www.auckland.ac.nz/en/students/forms-policies-and-guidelines/student-policies-and-guidelines/academic-integrity-copyright/about-academic-integrity.html>

## **Schedule of Classes**

### **Week 1**

Feb 26 Course Introduction and Goals

Feb 28 Course Introduction II: Syntax as Science

### **Week 2**

March 5 Constituents

March 7 Constituents II

### **Week 3**

March 12 Structural Relations

March 14 Binding Theory 1

### **Week 4**

March 19 Binding Theory II

March 21 Towards X-bar

### **Week 5**

March 26 X-bar II

March 28 X-bar III

### **Week 6 and Week 7**

No Class: Mid-term break

### **Week 8**

April 16 Review

April 18 Test

### **Week 9**

April 23 Movie

April 25 No Class (Anzac Day)

### **Week 10**

April 30 DP-hypothesis

May 2 Theta theory

### **Week 11**

May 7 Towards Movement

May 9 Head movement

### **Week 12**

May 14 DP movement

May 16 Wh-movement 1

**Week 13**

May 21 Wh-movement 2

May 23 Wh-Review

**Week 14**

May 28 Towards Syntax 2

May 30 Comparative Syntax