Linguistics 9600A – Principles of Generative Syntax

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The main goal of this course is to familiarize the students with current syntactic theory, by investigating the syntax of movement and agreement, and how it has been analyzed over the past 50 years. Students will be expected to read original literature in the Principles and Parameters/Minimalism frameworks and will learn about different approaches to syntax (e.g. Relational Grammar, Lexical-Functional Grammar). Students will also learn to apply what they have learned to new data from different languages.

By the end of the course students should
- feel confident reading formal syntactic literature
- be able to apply theoretical analyses to original data
- be able to critique and present research papers
- feel confident about doing original research within the frameworks provided
- be able to communicate their research results (in the form of abstracts, squibs, and oral presentations)

Format of the course:
- lectures
- discussion groups on concepts introduced in the papers
- presentation of language logs
- solving empirical problems in class and at home (assignments)
- student presentations of relevant literature
- original research

Recommended Textbooks
If you do not have firm foundations in syntax, the following books are recommended but not obligatory:

Radford, Andrew. (2009). *Analysing English Sentences. A Minimalist Approach*. Cambridge, Cambridge University Press.

Sportiche, Dominique, Hilda Koopman & Edward Stabler. 2014. *An Introduction to Syntactic Analysis & Theory* (First Edition). Wiley-Blackwell.

Grading is based on:

Participation	5%
4 language logs (4x5%)	20%
2 group presentations (2x5%)	10%
2 problem sets (2x7.5%)	15%
Final paper	
- topic (one sentence)	2%
- abstract (one page)	3%
- outline (2 pages)	5%
- class presentation	10%
- written version	30%

Language log: Each student will identify a language that s/he will report on throughout the course. The logs will be based on the reading materials: the student will find data from the language that is relevant to issues discussed in a each unit.

Requirements for group presentations: Each student will participate in 3 group presentations; the groups will be different each time. The topic of the presentation is an article selected from the readings list. The goal is to present the central proposal of the paper, identify the empirical issues involved, and work through one or two examples in detail. The presentations will be 15 minutes each, followed by discussion. The group must provide a handout (maximum 6 pages) or use PowerPoint.

Requirements for individual presentations: Each student will give a presentation of their research paper. The presentation will be 15 minutes, followed by a 5-minute discussion period. The handout is a maximum of 6 pages.

Requirements for the research paper: The goal is to identify an empirical or theoretical problem concerning subjects, present a data set that bears on it, assess the implications of the analysis and work through at least one representation using the relevant syntactic formalism. Format: 20 pages maximum, 12-point font, 1.5 line spacing, 1-inch margins.

Attendance: Attendance and active participation in all lectures is required.

Readings list:
Review of foundational notions

Fukui, N., & Narita, H. (2014). Merge, labeling, and projection. *The Routledge handbook of syntax*, *1*, 3-23.

Mateu, J. (2014). Argument structure. *The Routledge handbook of syntax*, 24-41.

Travis, L. D. (2014). The integration, proliferation, and expansion of functional categories: An overview. *The Routledge handbook of syntax*, 42-64.

Unit 2: Detecting surface syntax

Chomsky, N. 1981. *Lectures on Government and Binding*. Dordrecht: Foris.

Déchaine, R. M., & Manfredi, V. (1994). Binding domains in Haitian. *Natural Language & Linguistic Theory*, *12*(2), 203-257.

Déchaine, R. M., & Wiltschko, M. (2017). A formal typology of reflexives. *Studia Linguistica*, *71*(1-2), 60-106.

Déchaine, R. M., & Wiltschko, M. (2017). Bound variable anaphora. *The Wiley Blackwell Companion to Syntax, Second Edition*, 1-33.

Huang, C.-T. James: 1983, 'A Note on the Binding Theory', *Linguistic Inquiry* 14, 554-561.

Truswell, R. (2014). Binding theory. *The Routledge handbook of syntax*. 214-238.

Wiltschko, M. (1998). On the syntax and semantics of (relative) pronouns and determiners. *The Journal of Comparative Germanic Linguistics*, 2, 143-181.

Unit 3: Detecting abstract syntax

Alexiadou, A. & E. Anagnostopoulou (1998) Parametrizing Agr: word order, verb-movement and EPP-checking. *Natural Language and Linguistic Theory* 16.3: 491-539.

Barrie, M., & Mathieu, É. (2014). Head movement. *The Routledge Handbook of Syntax*. 133-149.

Chomsky, N. 1965. *Aspects of the theory of syntax*. MIT Press. (Chapter 2)

Koopman, H. 1984. *The Syntax of Verbs: From Verb Movement Rules in the Kru Languages to Universal Grammar*. Dordrecht: Foris.

Koopman, H. & D. Sportiche. 1991, The position of subjects, *Lingua* 85, 211-258.

Kratzer, A. 1996. Severing the external argument from its verb. In J. Rooryck & L. Zaring (eds.), *Phrase structure and the lexicon*. Dordrecht: Kluwer. 109-138.

McCloskey, J. 1997. Subjecthood and subject positions. In L. Haegeman (ed.), *Elements of grammar*. Dordrecht: Kluwer. 197-235.

Pollock, J.-Y. 1989. Verb movement, universal grammar and the structure of IP. *Linguistic Inquiry* 20, 365–424.

Stowell, T. 1983. Subjects across categories. *The Linguistic Review*. 2/3:285–312

Travis, L.D.M. 1984. Parameters and effects of word order variation. PhD dissertation, MIT.

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Ghomeshi, Jila. 2001. Control and thematic agreement. *Canadian Journal of Linguistics* 46: 9-40. (available online via Weldon)

Halpert, Claire. 2015. Raising parameters. In *Proceedings of WCCFL 33*, ed. Kyeong-min

Kim, 186–195. Cascadilla Press. https://www.lingref.com/cpp/wccfl/33/paper3238.pdf

Hornstein, N. 1999. Movement and control. *Linguistic Inquiry*, 30, 69–96.

Hornstein, N., & Nunes, J. (2014). Minimalism and control. *Routledge handbook of syntax*, 239-263.

Moore, John. 1998. Turkish copy-raising and A-chain locality. *Natural Language and Linguistic Theory* 16: 149-189. (available online via Weldon)

Potsdam, Eric and Jeffrey T. Runner. 2001. Richard returns: Copy raising and its implications. In Mary Andronis, Christopher Ball, Heidi Elston, and Sylvain Neuvel (eds.). *CLS 37: The Main Session*. *Papers from the 37th Meeting of the Chicago Linguistic Society*. Chicago: Chicago Linguistic Society, 453-468. https://people.clas.ufl.edu/potsdam/files/CLS37.pdf

Unit 4: A'-Move & A'-Agreement

Chen, Victoria. 2017. Philippine-type "voice" affixes as A'-agreement markers: Evidence from causatives and ditransitives. In *Proceedings of the 23rd Annual Meeting of the Austronesian Formal Linguistics Association (AFLA 23). Canberra: Asia-Pacific Linguistics*.

Cheng, Lisa Lai-Shen and Norbert Corver. 2006. Lines of inquiry on Wh-movement. In Cheng L.L.-S., Corver N. (eds.) *Wh-movement Moving On.* 1-18. Cambridge: MIT Press.

Chomsky, Noam. 1977. On Wh-Movement. In Peter Culicover, Thomas Wasow, and Adrian Akmajian (eds.) *Formal Syntax*. 71-132. New York: Academic Press.

Chomsky, Noam. 2001. Derivation by phase. In: Kenstowicz, M. (ed.), *Ken Hale: A Life in Language*. 1-52. MIT Press, Cambridge, MA.

Chomsky, Noam. 2007. Approaching UG from Below. In Sauerland, U, and Gärtner, H. (eds.), *Interfaces + recursion = language? Chomsky's minimalism and the view from syntax-semantics*. 1-29. Mouton de Gruyter.

Chomsky, Noam. 2008. On Phases. In C.P. Otero et. al., (eds.), *Foundational Issues in Linguistic Theory: Essays in honour of Jean-Roger Vergnaud.* 133-166. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.

Fanselow, Gisbert and Anoop Mahajan. 2000. Towards a minimalist theory of wh-expletives, wh-copying, and successive cyclicity. In: Lutz, U., Muller, G., von Stechow, A. (eds.), *Wh-Scope Marking*. 195-230. John Benjamins, Amsterdam and Philadelphia.

Felser, Claudia, 2004. Wh-copying, phases and successive cyclicity. *Lingua* 114:543-574. *Journal of Linguistics* 37:67-100.

Georgi, Doreen. 2017. Patterns of movement reflexes as the result of the order of Merge and Agree. *Linguistic Inquiry* 48:585-626.

Lochbihler, Bethany and Mathieu, Eric. 2010. Wh-agreement in Ojibwe: consequences for feature inheritance and the categorial status of tense. In *Proceedings of WSCLA* 13 and 14, UBCWPL26.

Reintges, Chris H. et al. 2006. Movement, Wh-agreement and Apparent Wh-in-situ. In Cheng, Lisa and Cover, Norbert (eds.) *Wh-movement: Moving On*. Camgridge, MA: MIT Press.

Richards, N. (2014). A-bar movement. *The Routledge handbook of syntax*, 167-191.

Schneider-Zioga, Patricia. 2009. Wh-agreement and bounded unbounded movement. In Jos. M. Brucart, Anna Gavarr. & Jaume Sol. (eds.): Merging features. Oxford University Press, pp. 46–59. http://dx.doi.org/10.1093/acprof:oso/9780199553266.003.0003.

van Urk, Coppe and Richards, Norvin. 2015. Two components of long-distance extraction: successive cyclicity in Dinka. *Linguistic Inquiry* 46:113-155.

LINGUISTICS 9600A - Schedule

Date		Topic	Reading	Assignments/presentations
1.	Sept. 07	Introduction		
		Unit 1: Review of foundational notions		
2.	Sept. 14	Category, structure and constituency	Fukui, N., & Narita, H. (2014)	
3.	Sept. 21	Projection and selection	Mateu (2014)	PROBLEM SET #1
		Unit 2: Detecting surface syntax		
4.	Sept. 28	Binding	Truswell (2014)	Topic of final paper (1 sentence)
5.	Oct. 05		Déchaine & Manfredi (1994)	
		Unit 3: Detecting abstract syntax		
6.	Oct. 12	Selection, (Extended) Projection: subjects & head movement	Barrie & Mathieu (2014) Pollock (1989);	
7.	Oct. 19	Case study: head movement in English, French and Bamileke Medumba		Abstract (1 page)
8.	Oct. 26	Control and raising 1	Halpert 2015	Group presentations 1
9.	Nov. 09	Control and raising 1	Hornstein & Nunes (2014)	PROBLEM SET #2
		Unit 4: A'-Move & A'-Agree		
10.	Nov. 16	Wh-movement	Chomsky (1977); Cheng & Corver (2006); Richards (2014)	Outline of final paper (2 pages)
11.	Nov. 23	Case study: Comparing wh-movement in English and Bamilke Medumba	Keupdjio (2020) ch 2,3 Chomsky 2001, 2008	
12.	Nov. 30	A'-Move & A'-Agree	Georgi (2017); van Urk & Richards 2015	Group presentations 2
13.	Dec. 07	Conclusion		Presentations of final paper