

Professor Diti Bhadra
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Grader: Alexander Jarnow

Office hours: Mondays 3-4pm,
S313 Elliot Hall
Class: MW 1:00 – 2:15pm
Armory Building 202
Fall 2019

textbook

There is no required textbook. I will be using the following textbook as a loose structural guide for a *part* of the semester, so feel free to procure a copy if you wish:

Koopman, Sportiche, and Stabler (2013).
An Introduction to Syntactic Analysis & Theory

Treat your course notes as primary course material. I will also upload my handouts on the course site.

course requirements

Problems Sets	50%
Midterm exam	20%
Final exam	20%
Participation	10%

There will be roughly 7-8 take-home assignments, administered via the course site on Canvas. The total number and the due dates are subject to change along the course of the semester. You will have **one week** to complete each problem set and upload it on the course site.

The **Late submission policy** is very simple: late assignments will not be accepted. There will be no credit for “almost finished” or “finished but forgot to upload” kind of contingencies.

Participation will be evaluated based on active participation in class discussion, asking/answering questions, etc.

I am not going to formally keep track of attendance but **beware**: missing classes will mean missing out on a lot in terms of central concepts and applications.

I am strict about coming to class on time, so if you are more than 10 minutes late, please do not come in. If you need to be later than that for a particular day, you can email me **before class** to let me know.

This class is an introduction to syntactic theory. We will explore the underlying mental systems that allow human beings to organize words (and parts of words) into larger phrases. Through a variety of issues and a large amount of data, we will (a) observe the common principles and points of variation in syntactic structure across languages; (b) see how such patterns may be formally represented. Basic concepts and problems that have shaped the field of syntax will be introduced, and you will begin to learn how to solve syntactic puzzles and the mechanics of how to capture these issues within the Government & Binding approach to syntax.

collaboration

Collaboration with your classmates is allowed on problem sets, but write up the solutions in your own words **and** list the names of your collaborators up front. Not following these guidelines would result in your work not receiving credit.

If you use outside sources for your problem sets, treat it as you would if you were collaborating with a classmate – cite your sources. Failure to do so will be treated as plagiarism, which is a **very serious** form of academic dishonesty. Use the guide to the University of Minnesota’s Academic Integrity Policy as a clarificatory source:

<https://iss.umn.edu/Academics/academic-integrity.html>
Plagiarized work will receive no credit and will be reported to the university.

accessibility

We all learn differently. If you have questions that cannot be addressed during class time, or you feel confused or overwhelmed, my doors are open for you. Office hours are good time to seek me out; if you cannot make that slot, you can email me for an appointment. I am here to help.

tools for trees

You will need to draw a lot of trees for this class. Here are some industry-approved tools:

1. A software called [Treeform](#)
2. An online application called [SynTree](#)
3. A program called [Linguistic Tree Constructor](#)
4. An online portal called [phpsyntaxtree](#)
5. For Latex users: a bunch of packages at [Latex for Linguists](#). [qtree.sty](#) and [xyling.sty](#) are my favorite ones.

schedule (subject to updates)

Week 1	Sept 4th	morphemes, categories, hierarchy in morphology
Week 2	Sept 9 th , 11 th	constituency, introduction to phrase structure
Week 3	Sept 16 th , 18 th	phrase structure to X-bar theory
Week 4	Sept 23 rd , 25 th	more X-bar and functional categories
Week 5	Sept 30 th , Oct 2 nd	X-bar and Binding Theory
Week 6	Oct 7 th , 9 th	Binding Theory II
Week 7	Oct 14 th , 16 th	introduction to movement and locality, case
Week 8	Oct 21 st Oct 23 rd	review Midterm Exam
Week 9	Oct 28 th , 30 th	wh-movement and wh-in-situ
Week 10	Nov 4 th , 6 th	head movement
Week 11	Nov 11 th , 13 th	raising versus control
Week 12	Nov 18 th , 20 th	ellipsis I
Week 13	Nov 25 th , 27 th	ellipsis II
Week 14	Dec 2 nd , 4 th	a taste of passives
Week 15	Dec 9 th , 11 th	wrap-up, review
Saturday	Dec 14 th 10:30am – 12:20pm	Final Exam