Syntax III - Fall 2018
Topics in Ellipsis

Course Information

Course #: 16:615:512
Time & place: TuThu 4:30–5:50pm
18 Seminary Pl Rm 108
Website: On Sakai
Instructor: Troy Messick (Rm 305)
E-mail: troy.messick@rutgers.edu
Office hours: TuThu 3:00pm–4:00pm and by appointment

Overview and goals

This course is a hybrid between a seminar style course and a more introductory style course (think Syntax I and II). The overarching topic of the course will be on the phenomenon of ellipsis. Special focus will be placed on areas of research that are currently under debate. The purpose of this is to acquaint you with the current areas of interest and also to see what counts as a good argument within ellipsis research Topics covered will include: apparent island repair under sluicing and other ellipsis types; exceptional movement in ellipsis and in particular the construction known as pseudogapping; the interaction of head movement and ellipsis; and argument ellipsis with a special focus on East Asian Languages. Other topics not listed here can be added or substituted based on student interest.

The goal of the course is to acquaint the student with cutting edge research on the topic and also begin to critically engage with the literature in order to bring along the student's own research agendas.

Structure of the course and requirements

The course will consist of weekly lectures with plenty of time devoted to discussion and questions. Based on student interest, some weeks will be student lead reading group style presentations on a paper of interest. The last week will be devoted to student presentation of their research project.

Enrolled students must meet the following requirements:
> (1) Lead two (2) classes during the course of the semester on a paper of the students' choosing.
>> -The discussion must go beyond just outlining the details of the paper and must include at least 3 questions the student had while reading the paper.
>> -Please schedule an office hours appointment with me at least one week before giving a presentation so that we may go over the paper and strategy for the presentation.
>> -If you are using a handout or slides, please send them to me at least 30 minutes prior to class so that I can post them on the website.

(2) Give one (1) semi-formal presentation of their research project.
(3) A conference style abstract of their research project
(4) A squib on their research project

As this is an advanced level course, research papers/project need to go beyond just a a literature review and must represent original research and critical thinking.

Grades will be determined based on the fulfillment of these requirements along with attendance and participation during the weekly lectures. If you must miss class, please let me know beforehand.

Schedule (readings available on Sakai)

Date	Topic	Readings	Notes
9/4	What is Ellipsis?	Hankamer & Sag (1976) Merchant (2013)	
9/6	The licensing of ellipsis	Merchant (2016)	
9/11	The identity of ellipsis	Rudin (to appear)	Pick the papers you would like to present.
9/13	An introduction to sluicing	Merchant (2006) Optional: Chung et al. (1995); Ross (1969)	
9/18	There is island repair!	Merchant (2008a) Bošković (2013)	
9/25	No there isn't!	Barros et al. (2014)	
9/27	Okay, Maybe a little…	Barros et al. (2018)	
10/2	A diversion: Getting rid of MaxElide	Griffiths (to appear) Optional: Messick & Thoms (2016)	
10/4	An introduction to VP-ellipsis and Pseudo-gapping	Merchant (2008b)	
10/9	The A-movement position	Lasnik (1999) Baltin (2000)	
10/11	The A'-movement position	Thoms (2016) Optional: Jayaseelan (1990)	
10/16	A diversion: Pseudogapping and pi positions	Poole (2017) Chapter 2	
10/18	An introduction to Verb stranding	Goldberg (2005) Chapters 2 & 3	
10/23	Controlling for null objects	Gribanova (2013a,b)	
10/25	Head movement feeds ellipsis	Liptak & Saab (2014)	

10/30	Ellipsis bleeds head movement	Sailor (2018)	
11/1	When can ellipsis bleed movement?	Baltin (2012) Thoms & Sailor (2018)	
11/6	About isomorphism…	Landau (2018)	
11/13	An introduction to Argument Ellipsis	Sakamoto (2017) Chapter 2	Pick a paper topic
11/15	Anti-agreement and AE	Otaki (2011) Takahashi (2013)	
11/20	AE in South Asia	Simpson et al (2013)	
11/22	Thanksgiving	N/A	Gobble Gobble
11/27	Clitics with sloppy readings	Bošković (to appear)	
11/29	Overt/Covert asymmetry: The LF analysis	Sakamoto (to appear)	
12/4	Overt/Covert asymmetry: The PF analysis	Park (2017) Chapter 4	
12/6	Student Presentations	TBD	
12/11	Student Presentations	TBD	Abstracts Due
10/20	N/A	N/A	Squibs Due