

Syntax II - Spring 2020

Course Information

Course #: 16:615:511

Time & place: M/W 1:10–2:30pm

18 Seminary Pl Rm 108

Website: Canvas

Instructor: Troy Messick (Rm 305)

E-mail: troy.messick@rutgers.edu

Office hours: M/W 11:00am–noon and by appointment

Overview and goals

Intermediate-level discussion of major issues in syntactic theory, including theories of parametric variation, logical form and levels of grammar, and components and subtheories of grammar.

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. Student responsibilities include doing the readings and coming to class prepared to discuss them. To help facilitate this, **students are required to submit two questions about each reading assignment to Canvas prior to the class period.** This will allow me to gauge whether or not you are completing the readings and also will help with starting discussion for each class.

Students will also be required to perform their own research project during the course of the semester. Requirements for this include:

- Meeting with instructor prior to spring break (3/16) to discuss topics and literature recommendations.
- Choosing one paper in consultation with the instructor to lead a discussion of the week following spring break.
- Meeting with the instructor one time in the second half of the semester to discuss progress.
- A presentation of the results of the project the last week of the semester.
- A short squib (~10 pages) that is a write up of the findings of the project.

As this is an intermediate level course, research papers/project should go beyond just 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.

Tentative Schedule

(This is almost guaranteed to be overly ambitious and is open to alterations based on student interest)

Date	Topic	Readings	Notes
1/22	Review Concepts from Syntax I	None	
1/27	Locality of Movement	Rizzi (1990) [Selections]	
1/29	Locality of Movement/ Phases	Chomsky (2000)	
2/3	Phases (cont.)	Chomsky (2001)	
2/5	vP phase	Legate (2003) Sauerland (2003)	
2/10	Phases Advanced Topics	Bošković (2014)	
2/12	Phases Advanced Topics	Fox and Pesetsky (2005)	
2/17	Islands	Boeckx (2012) [selections]	
2/19	Islands (cont.)	Boeckx (2012) [selections] Merchant (2008)	
2/24	Case/case	Pesetsky & Torrego (2011)	
2/26	Case (cont.)	Zaenen et al. (1985)	
3/2	Dependent Case	Marantz (1991)	
3/4	Ergativity	Legate (2008) Baker and Bobaljik (2017)	
3/9	Ergative Splits	Coon & Preminger (2017) Legate (2014)	
3/11	DOM	Baker & Vinokurova (2010) Kalin & Weisser (to appear)	Last Day for topic consultations
3/16	Spring Break	N/A	
3/18	Spring Break	N/A	
3/23	Student Lead Discussion	TBD	
3/25	Student Lead Discussion	TBD	
3/30	Agreement and case	Bobaljik (2008)	
4/1	Long Distance Agreement	Polinsky & Potsdam (2001)	
4/6	Cyclic Agree	Béjar & Rezac (2009)	

4/8	Agreement Failures	Preminger (2014) [selections]	Last day for topic update
4/13	Conjunct agreement	Nevins & Weisser (2019)	
4/15	Conjunct agreement (cont.)	Bhatt & Walkow (2013)	
4/20	Hybrid Agreement	Wechsler & Zlatić (2000)	
4/22	Hybrid Agreement (cont.)	Landau (2016)	
4/27	Student Presentations	N/A	
4/29	Student Presentations	N/A	

Additional Readings

- Abels, K. 2003. Successive cyclicity, anti-locality, and adposition stranding. UConn dissertation. Storrs, CT.
- Bobaljik, J.D. & S. Wurmbrand. The domain of agreement. *Natural language and linguistic theory* 23. 809-865.
- Bošković, Ž. 2007. On the Locality and Motivation of Move and Agree: An Even More Minimal Theory. *Linguistic Inquiry* 38(4). 589-644.
- Chomsky, N. 1986. *Barriers*. MIT Press.
- Chomsky, N. 1995a. *The Minimalist Program*. MIT Press.
- Chomsky, N. 1995b. Bare phrase structure. In *Government and Binding Theory and the Minimalist Program*, ed. G. Webelhuth, 383-439. Cambridge, Mass.: Blackwell.
- Chomsky, N. 2008. On Phases. In R. Freidin, C. P. Otero, & M. L. Zubizarreta (Eds.), *Foundational Issues in Linguistics Theory* (pp. 133-166). Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.
- Despić, M. 2011. Syntax in the absence of a determiner phrase. UConn dissertation. Storrs, CT.
- Epstein, S. & T.D. Seely. *Derivations in Minimalism*. Cambridge University Press.
- van Urk, C. A uniform syntax for phrasal movement: A Dinka Bor case study. MIT dissertation. Cambridge, MA