

LING 6010: Syntactic Theory

Mon. & Wed. 11am – 12:15pm

Location: 402 EPB

Instructor: Prof. Zuzanna Fuchs

Contact info: zuzanna-fuchs@uiowa.edu

451 Phillips Hall

(319) 467 1635

Office hours: Mon. 12:30pm – 3:30pm

or by appointment

Administrative home: Department of Linguistics

Note: Some of the policies relating to this course (such as the drop deadline) are governed by its administrative home, the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, 120 Schaeffer Hall.

DEO: Prof. Jill Beckman

jill-beckman@uiowa.edu

469 Phillips Hall

Course description

This is the second part of the graduate-level syntax sequence, which started with LING 5010 (Introduction to Syntax) and LING 5000 (Proseminar: Morphosyntax) in the fall. This sequence introduces syntax as an object of inquiry and is concerned with the broad range of linguistic phenomena that are of interest to syntacticians. In the fall, we covered these phenomena from a typological perspective, considering crosslinguistic patterns (as well as exceptions) and asking how different methodological approaches complement each other in broadening our understanding of the syntactic constructions of interest.

This semester, we move from the empirical domain to the theoretical domain. As you will see, many of the topics we explore this semester will be familiar to you from the fall (word order, agreement features, and *wh*-movement, among others), but the focus will be on how to represent these phenomena in a theoretical framework. The theoretical framework we will be operating in will be the Minimalist Program. By the end of the course, you should be able to represent basic sentence structure – including functional material and movement – using phrase structure rules and to understand the goals of the Minimalist Program within the context of the broader subfield of syntax.

Course materials

We will be using the textbook *Core Syntax: A Minimalist Approach* by David Adger. This textbook is available through UBS Textbooks. Any supplemental materials will be posted on ICON.

Course requirements

Attendance & Participation	20%
Assignments (12)	40%
In-class midterm	20%
Final exam	20%

Attendance & Participation: Attendance is mandatory. Please see the attendance policy below for what to do in the event of an absence. There will be ample opportunities for participation, as we will be doing a fair amount of problem-solving and discussion in class as a group or in pairs.

Assignments: To learn how to draw syntactic trees, it is crucial to get lots of independent practice. Although we will be working through exercises in class, your weekly assignments will allow you to practice applying these skills on your own and therefore solidify your understanding of the topics and methods. You will have a problem set due almost every week. Problem sets will be assigned on Wednesday evenings and **due by 5pm the following Tuesdays**, to be submitted via ICON as a scanned pdf.

In-class midterm: There will be one in-class midterm the week before spring break. It will test your ability to work through basic concepts covered in the first half of the semester.

Final exam: You will have an exam during finals week. Although the final is not strictly cumulative, the skills in this class do build on each other, so understanding material from the first half of the semester will be crucial to building skills in the second semester, leading up to the final exam.

Class policies

Collaboration: Collaboration on homework assignments is allowed and encouraged. Each student should submit their own write up of the homework assignment, **with the names of all collaborators listed**. Collaboration is not allowed on midterm or the final. Violation of this no-collaboration policy will be considered academic misconduct and will result in no credit on the exam for anyone involved.

Absences: In a grad-level class, frequent and/or sporadic absences can significantly impact your ability to succeed in the course. If you do not come to class, you also cannot contribute to the learning that day. Therefore, attendance is mandatory. If you must miss class for health reasons, please let me know in advance if possible, and submit to me a CLAS absence explanation form (<https://clas.uiowa.edu/sites/default/files/ABSENCE%20EXPLANATION%20FORM2019.pdf>) within 48 hours of the class you miss. You are responsible for all material you miss, and regular homework deadlines still apply unless you discuss possible extensions with me ahead of time. Expect to come to office hours as soon as possible after the missed class. One or two absences will not affect your grade, but if you miss three or more classes you can expect it to affect your participation grade.

Communication outside of class: I always prefer email, and I check my email frequently. If you email me before 9pm on a weekday, you can reasonably expect a response the same day. Generally, I do my best to respond within 24 hours. If I fail to do so, please do not hesitate to send a follow-up.

Late policy: Life happens, so I will accept **one** late assignment up to 5 days after the original due date, no questions asked. All other work must be submitted on time, or it will not receive credit.

Laptops: I prefer that you take notes on paper, but if you must use a laptop then it should only be used for note-taking or accessing assigned reading. I reserve the right to request “laptops down” during lecture if I believe laptops are distracting the class.

A student-teacher contract

A syllabus should be an agreement between the students and the instructor, in which we set expectations for the learning and the behavior that will take place in this course. Below are my expectations and what I can offer. We can also add to this list as a class.

I ask you to...

- Be on time and prepared for all class meetings.
- Be vocal. Share your ideas and ask questions. This helps you and your classmates learn, and it helps me assess our progress.
- Communicate with me. If things are going too fast, let me know via email or in office hours. If it's genuinely too much work (I am aware that as grad students you have a lot of responsibilities), ask me for help in prioritizing readings and assignments.
- Be honest. If you have not done the reading or are still struggling with a concept, let me know. Lecturing to a classroom that doesn't know what I'm talking about is a waste of my time and of your time, so I will try to adjust accordingly. Please do not abuse this.
- Do not stand me up for meetings outside of office hours.

And in return I will...

- Be on time and prepared for all class meetings.
- Treat every question with patience and respect, and attempt to answer it to the best of my ability either in class, via email, or in a meeting.
- Adjust the level and pace of the course to meet the students' needs. My job is to help you learn, not to talk at you for 3 hours a week.
- Be flexible in my lectures, so that we can dedicate more time to concepts you are struggling with.
- Be generous with my time.

<i>Week</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Reading</i>	<i>Assignment</i>
<i>Jan 22</i>	Introduction to course		
<i>Jan 27 & 29</i>	Recap of core concepts in morphosyntax	Chp 1 & 2	Pset 1
<i>Feb 3 & 5</i>	Constituency & Theta roles	Chp 3	Pset 2
<i>Feb 10 & 12</i>	Phrase structure, part 1	Chp 4.1 - 4.2	Pset 3
<i>Feb 17 & 19</i>	Phrase structure, part 2	Chp 4.3 - 4.7	Pset 4
<i>Feb 24 & 26</i>	Functional categories and tense	Chp 5.1 - 5.3	Pset 5
<i>Mar 2 & 4</i>	Head movement	Chp 5.4 - 5.6	Pset 6
<i>Mar 9 & 11</i>	Spill-over / review		
	March 11: in-class midterm		
<i>Mar 23 & 25</i>	Subject movement	Chp 6.1 - 6.3	Pset 7
<i>Mar 30 & Apr 1</i>	Object movement	Chp 6.4 - 6.8	Pset 8
<i>Apr 6 & 8</i>	Syntax of the DP	Chp 7	Pset 9
<i>Apr 13 & 15</i>	Functional categories in CP	Chp 8	Pset 10
<i>Apr 20 & 22</i>	Wh-movement, part 1	Chp 9.1 - 9.3	Pset 11
<i>Apr 27 & 29</i>	Wh-movement, part 2	Chp 9.4 - 9.9	Pset 12
<i>May 4 & 6</i>	Locality	Chp 10	

University policies

Absences and Attendance Students are responsible for attending class and for contributing to the learning environment of a course. Students are also responsible for knowing their course absence policies, which will vary by instructor. All absence policies, however, must uphold the UI policy related to student illness, mandatory religious obligations, including Holy Day obligations, unavoidable circumstances, or University authorized activities (<https://clas.uiowa.edu/students/handbook/attendance-absences>). Students may use this absence form to aid communication; the instructor will decide if the absence is excused or unexcused (<https://clas.uiowa.edu/sites/default/files/ABSENCE%20EXPLANATION%20FORM2019.pdf>).

Academic Integrity All undergraduates enrolled in courses offered by CLAS have, in essence, agreed to the College's Code of Academic Honesty. Misconduct is reported to the College, resulting in suspension or other sanctions, with sanctions communicated with the student through the UI email address (<https://clas.uiowa.edu/students/handbook/academic-fraud-honor-code>).

Accommodations for Disabilities UI is committed to an educational experience that is accessible to all students. A student may request academic accommodations for a disability (such as mental health, attention, learning, vision, and physical or health-related condition) by registering with Student Disability Services (SDS). The student is then responsible for discussing specific accommodations with the instructor. More information is at <https://sds.studentlife.uiowa.edu/>.

Administrative Home of the Course The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS) is the administrative home of this course and governs its add/drop deadlines, the second-grade-only option, and related policies. Other colleges may have different policies. CLAS policies may be found here: <https://clas.uiowa.edu/students/handbook>.

Communication and the Required Use of UI Email Students are responsible for official correspondences sent to the UI email address (uiowa.edu) and must use this address for all communication within UI (Operations Manual, III.15.2).

Complaints Students with a complaint about an academic issue should first visit with the instructor or course supervisor and then with the Chair of the department or program offering the course; students may next bring the issue to the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. For more information, see <https://clas.uiowa.edu/students/handbook/student-rights-responsibilities>.

Final Examination Policies The final exam schedule is announced around the fifth week of classes; students are responsible for knowing the date, time, and place of a final exam. Students should not make travel plans until knowing this information. No exams of any kind are allowed the week before finals. Visit <https://registrar.uiowa.edu/final-examination-scheduling-policies>.

Nondiscrimination in the Classroom UI is committed to making the classroom a respectful and inclusive space for all people irrespective of their gender, sexual, racial, religious or other identities. Toward this goal, students are invited to optionally share their preferred names and pronouns with their instructors and classmates. The University of Iowa prohibits discrimination and harassment against individuals on the basis of race, class, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, and other identity categories set forth in the University's Human Rights policy. For more information, contact the Office of Equal Opportunity and Diversity (diversity.uiowa.edu).

Sexual Harassment Sexual harassment subverts the mission of the University and threatens the well-being of students, faculty, and staff. All members of the UI community must uphold the UI mission and contribute to a safe environment that enhances learning. Incidents of sexual harassment must be reported immediately. For assistance, please see <https://osmrc.uiowa.edu/>.