



Syllabus (2021-1)*

- All students are expected to check the CyberCampus course website (<http://cyber.ewha.ac.kr/index.php>), as well as email, regularly for the most updated course information. Students are expected to keep up to date with all such information.
 - For each student, the university officially has an email address on record, which I may use to send important messages. Please check the appropriate email account regularly.
- Do not expect a response if you send me a message via the “Message” function on CyberCampus. I may simply ask you to send me an email.
- The format of this course may change at any time, including (but not limited to) the course schedule and course evaluations.

Course Title	English Syntax	Course No.	20091-01
Department/ Major	English Language & Literature	Credit/Hours	3/3
Class Time/ Classroom	Wed 11:00 – 12:15, Fri 9:30 – 10:45 / NA		
Instructor	Name: Isaac Gould	Department: English Language & Literature	
	E-mail: gould@ewha.ac.kr	Telephone: 02-3277-6681	
Office Hours/ Office Location	By appointment / Inmunkwan 520		

I. Course Overview

1. Course Description

This course is an introduction to the formal and scientific study of syntax in natural language. By *syntax*, we mean linguistic structure at the phrase and sentence level. That is, the combination of words/morphemes into phrases and phrases into sentences. Detailed investigation into sentence structure reveals that sentences are not formed merely by stringing together words/morphemes. Instead, sentences have properties that reflect a complex hierarchical organization/structure that is rule governed and systematic. By *formal*, we mean analytically precise investigation that focuses on the form of a linguistic object – here, phrase and sentence structure. We will study syntax by focusing on a standard variety of English, and throughout the course we will work on developing a theory/model of the syntax of English. Although our focus is English, the theory we will develop will be general enough that it can be applied



fruitfully to the study of other languages. More generally, the overarching questions of syntax concern the human capacity for building and manipulating complex syntactic structures in the mind.

2. Prerequisites

None

3. Course Format

Lecture-Discussion
100%

As part of the course objectives mentioned below, we will work toward developing a syntactic theory by incorporating into our discussions a process of hypothesis formulation and hypothesis testing, both of which will be guided by empirical data from English. Attending class and participating in this process are thus a central part of the learning experience for this course.

4. Course Objectives

While emphasis is placed on developing an understanding of the concepts mentioned in the course description above, the primary objective of this course is for you to gain familiarity with some core empirical phenomena in English, as well as some core methodology, analytical reasoning, and argumentation skills that are critical for doing syntactic analysis within the context of any theoretical program.

5. Evaluation System

Mid-term Exam	Final Exam	Participation
45%	45%	10%

- The mid-term exam will focus on course content that was covered from the beginning of the semester until right before the exam. There will also be a final exam at the end of the semester that is cumulative; it will focus on all course content from throughout the semester.
- You are expected to attend class and participate in discussions and classwork. Regular attendance is extremely important if you wish to do well in this class. Each class will build on material from the previous class. In some classes, we may take small steps forward. In other



classes, we may take giant leaps. Therefore, missing even one class may put you seriously behind. If you must be absent from class for whatever reason, it is your responsibility to find out what material you missed.

- Participation includes asking questions! Of course, you can ask me questions one-on-one, but it's even better if you ask them so all your classmates can know your question. Your classmates probably have the same/a similar question (trust me!), and so asking so that everyone knows your question makes it a better learning experience for you and for me.
- Use email to contact me instead of using the CyberCampus website.

II. Course Materials and Additional Readings

1. Required Materials

- Textbook: Aarts, Bas. 2018. *English Syntax and Argumentation* (Fifth edition). Palgrave.
- Lecture slides (to be made available on <http://cyber.ewha.ac.kr/index.php>)

2. Supplementary Materials

None

3. Optional Additional Readings

- A more challenging textbook, which has a more cross-linguistic focus: Carnie, Andrew. 2012. *Syntax: A Generative Introduction* (Third edition). Blackwell Publishing.

III. Course Policies

- We will use the required textbook as a guide (mostly during the first half of the semester), and you are expected to read it (see the calendar for page assignments), but we will also depart from it in our class discussions. In case anything on the lecture slides is different from what is in the textbook, you are to follow what is in the lecture slides, and to disregard what the textbook says in these cases.
- As a general rule, you will not be able to take an exam outside of the time that is scheduled for the entire class to take it. If an emergency occurs and you are not able to attend class, let me know as soon as possible to discuss class requirements.
- Communication with me is crucial. If you find you are having difficulty with any part of the course, please get in touch with me right away so that we can work together to remedy the situation. If there is some non-course-related issue that you feel is contributing to making the course difficult, contact me about it as soon as possible. I cannot emphasize enough the importance of contacting



me if you have any questions or concerns – don't wait until it's too late! Also, if you find that any part of this course is something you particularly enjoy or find interesting, do let me know so that I can help you enhance the experience and steer you in directions to find opportunities to grow independently.

- Academic dishonesty is an unacceptable mode of conduct and will not be tolerated in any form, including but not limited to: cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person and taking an examination for another person. If you are suspected of violating academic integrity standards, you should not expect to receive any credit for the work in question, and you should expect to be reported. Disciplinary action, in accordance with university policy, may result in more serious penalties.

IV. Approximate Course Schedule (subject to change)

- Page numbers refer to pages in the textbook

Week	Date	Topics & Class Materials, Assignments
Week 1	(03/03)	Preliminaries
	(03/05)	Reflexives (pp. 3-7)
Week 2	(03/10)	Grammatical functions (pp. 8-14)
	(03/12)	Grammatical functions continued (pp. 14-21)
Week 3	(03/17)	Categories (pp. 24-33)
	(03/19)	Categories continued (pp. 33-44)
Week 4	(03/24)	Phrase Structure Rules
	(03/26)	Building phrases
Week 5	(03/31)	Building phrases continued (pp. 210-[mid-page] 214)
	(04/02)	Building phrases continued 2 (pp. [bottom of page] 217 -[mid-page] 220)
Week 6	(04/07)	X-Bar Theory (pp. 115-117)



Week	Date	Topics & Class Materials, Assignments
	(04/09)	X-Bar Theory continued (pp. [mid-page] 125-126)
Week 7	(04/14)	X-Bar Theory continued 2
	(04/16)	Extending X-Bar Theory
	(04/21)	Mid-term Exam
Week 8	(04/23)	Argument structure (pp. 89-94)
	(04/28)	Argument structure continued and movement
Week 9	(04/30)	Movement continued
Week 10	(05/05)	No class – Children's Day
	(05/07)	Review
Week 11	(05/12)	Movement continued 2
	(05/14)	Movement continued 3
Week 12	(05/19)	No Class – Buddha's Birthday
	(05/21)	Bonus movement + Movement continued 4
	(05/26)	Movement continued 5 (pp. 148-150)
Week 13	(05/28)	Binding Theory
Week 14	(06/02)	Binding Theory continued
	(06/04)	Binding Theory continued 2



Week	Date	Topics & Class Materials, Assignments
Week 15	(06/09)	Review
	(06/11)	Final Exam

V. Special Accommodations

- According to University regulation #57, students with disabilities can request special accommodation related to attendance, lectures, assignments, and/or tests by contacting the course professor at the beginning of the semester. Based on the nature of students' requests, students can receive support for such accommodations from the course professor and/or from the Support Center for Students with Disabilities (SCSD). Any student who has a disability that may prevent his/her ability to participate fully in the course should contact me as soon as possible so that class requirements can be discussed.
- Any student for whom there are mandated religious observances that conflict with the course schedule should contact me as soon as possible so that class requirements can be discussed.

* The contents of this syllabus are not final—they may be updated.