LING 120B: Syntax I
Spring 2022

Instructor	Student Hours
Nico(letta) Loccioni (loccioni@ucla.edu)	TBA
TAs	**Student Hours**
Maddy Booth (madeleinebooth1@gmail.com)	TBA
Arthur Mateos (mateos@ucla.edu)	TBA
Lectures	**Location**
M, W 8-9:50am	Royce Hall 190

last updated: 2022-03-27

1 Course outline

This course is the first half of a two-part series designed to introduce you to the study of the field of syntax. In this course we will explore some of the same topics addressed in LING 20 but in greater depth and discovering greater complexity within and diversity among languages. We will learn how to use new information from a variety of languages to argue for or against theoretical proposals. We will also move onto new topics within syntax, learning to produce viable accounts for the grammaticality (or ungrammaticality) of sentences and how to illustrate those accounts through syntactic derivations.

We will have three primary goals: (1) to familiarize ourselves with the key topics and proposals of contemporary syntax, (2) to learn how to use the tools at our disposal to solve syntactic puzzles, and (3) to appreciate more fully the vast complexity of our language faculty.

2 Course Materials

- Lecture slides will be posted on the CCLE website for download before class.

- They are based on *An Introduction to Syntactic Analysis and Theory*
  D. Sportiche, H. Koopman, and E. Stabler. Wiley Blackwell. 2014.

  The textbook is not mandatory.

3 Weekly schedule

At the beginning of each week, I will post a weekly schedule for the coming week. It will include the up-coming deadlines, announcements, assigned readings and information on where to get help that week.

You are <u>responsible</u> for everything posted on the weekly schedule.

4 Requirements

- Homework Assignments (8): 50% (equally weighted)
- Midterm: 20% (02/08, regular class time.)
- Final Exam: 30% 06/06

The midterm and final are cumulative.

4.1 Homework Assignments

- There will be 8 homework assignments
- The homework assignments are equally weighted
- The lowest score will be dropped (only the best 7 scores will count)
- Assignments are (typically) published by Thursday morning and due on Wednesday.
- Assignments will cover material that has been up to the day the assignment is published
- Homework assignments should be submitted on CCLE by the deadline.
- Grades are posted on MyUCLA as they become available

Late Homework Policy

- Homework assignments are due <u>before</u> class starts, at 8am.
- Assignment are accepted until 9:50am (the end of class) with a 10% late penalty.
- After 9:50am, assignments will <u>NOT</u> be accepted, without prior documentation of illness, personal emergency or religious observance.
- If you know you have to miss class the day the homework is due, get in touch with us beforehand.
- If you have other reasons for missing a deadline that you believe are legitimate, come and talk to me.

4.2 FAQs about HW

a. What should I do if I have an emergency and I cannot meet a deadline? You should get in touch with us ASAP and definitely before the deadline. 7am does not count as letting us know in advance.
b. What if I am in a different time zone? Can I have a different deadline? No, unfortunately, the 8am deadline is the same for everyone.
c. I don't understand why I lost point in the homework. What should I do? You should go to your TA's student hours ASAP (=within a week).

4.3 Exams

- Midterm exam: 02/07, 8-10am
- Final exam: 03/16, 3-6pm

5 Email policy

You should only use email as a tool to:

a.   ask a very quick question;

b.   let us know about an unforeseen emergency or

c.   to set up a one-on-one meeting if our student hours conflict with your schedule. If so, please use the subject line "meeting request". Include at least two times when you would like to meet and a brief description of the reason of the meeting.

Otherwise:

1. Ask during class or section!

2. Come to our student hours!

3. Do you have a content question? Do you want some feedback from your peers? Post on the forum!

6   How to succeed in this class

- <u>Always come to lecture and section</u>   There's nothing like missing class to make a person feel lost, confused, and out of it. Not only do you miss the material from the day you were gone, but you get less out of the next class too, sometimes leading to a downward spiral. Attending class and engaging with the material will make the class more enjoyable.

- <u>Ask questions!</u> Don't be shy! It is informative for me (maybe I'm going too fast or not explaining something well) and for your classmates who might have the same questions. Even if all you need is for me to repeat something, someone else in the class probably needed it too. Also, having misunderstandings clarified immediately will facilitate your learning of the material.

- <u>Talk to us!</u> ...if you realize you don't understand something or are having trouble with the course material. There are many reasons for you to approach me with questions (e.g. I went over the material too fast, you are not a native speaker of English and would like me to explain something in simpler terms, you missed class and need me to help you with some concepts or skills we covered, etc.) I also welcome you to talk to me about your ideas, if you disagree with something you've read, you're intrigued by something you've read, etc.

- <u>Talk to your classmates!</u> Discuss your readings, assignments, projects, and ideas. Study and practice together.

- <u>Put away your devices!</u> All the research shows that (i) humans think we're good at multi-tasking, and (ii) humans are bad at multi-tasking. Just put away your phone; it will be waiting for you in 50 minutes. The same goes for laptops; they are a huge distraction for both you and your neighbors! Plus, research shows that people learn more when they take notes by hand. If you need to take notes on a computer because you have a wrist/hand injury, dysgraphia, etc., let me know.

<div align="right">some of these suggestions below are from Kie Zuraw's handouts</div>

7   Extra Credit

TBA

Schedule (subject to modification)

Week:	Date			Topic:	Deadlines:
1	Mon.	Mar. 28		Introduction to the Course and the Topic.	
	Wed.	Mar. 30		Syntactic analysis introduced	
2	Mon.	Apr. 4		Constituency tests	
	Wed.	Apr. 6		Structural ambiguities	Assignment 1 is due.
3	Mon.	Apr. 11		X-bar Theory - part I	
	Wed.	Apr. 13		X-bar Theory - part II	Assignment 2 is due.
4	Mon.	Apr. 18		Cross-linguistic variation	
	Wed.	Apr. 20		The format of Lexical entries, small clauses	Assignment 3 is due.
5	Mon.	Apr. 25		Binding Theory - part I	
	Wed.	Apr. 27		Review for Midterm	Assignment 4 is due.
6	Mon.	May 2		**<u>Midterm</u>**	
	Wed.	May 4		Binding Theory - part II	
7	Mon.	May 9		Head movement - part I	
	Wed.	May 11		Head movement - part II	Assignment 5 is due.
8	Mon.	May 16		Phrasal movement - part I	
	Wed.	May 18		Phrasal movement - part II	Assignment 6 is due.
9	Mon.	May 23		Raising to Subject and Subj. Control - part I	
	Wed.	May 25		Raising to Subject and Subj. Control - part II	Assignment 7 is due.
10	Mon.	May 30		**Memorial Day holiday**	
	Wed.	Jun. 1		Review for Final Exam	Assignment 8 is due.
	Mon.	Jun. 6		Final Exam	

Course rules

(i) If you fall behind due to unforeseen circumstances, be sure to contact your instructor and your TA as soon as you can. We will make sure to give you our support to go back on track.

(ii) No piece of teaching material must be shared outside the classroom as in online platforms. Teaching material is subject to copyright and sharing it is illegal. Any infraction to this rule will be reported.

(iii) Classes and sections may be taught via Zoom, which uses video recording or other personal information capture for the purpose of facilitating the course environment. Note that pursuant to the terms of the agreement with UCLA, the data is used solely for this purpose and any vendor is prohibited from redisclosing this information. UCLA also does not use the data for any other purpose. Neither may you.

(iv) Deadlines cannot be extended, without documentation of illness, personal emergency or religious observance. If you have other reasons for missing a deadline that you believe are legitimate, come and talk to me or your TA.

(v) Although you can discuss assignments with each other, you must write up your assignments on your own and make sure you ultimately work autonomously and answers on an individual basis. All incidents of academic dishonesty (cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, or helping another student to commit one of these acts) will be subject to the UCLA policy in this matter (see below).

University policies

The University gives faculty a lot of useful and important information that each of you has to be aware of:

1. Academic Dishonesty

2. Medical Notes

3. Disabilities

4. The Undergraduate Writing Center

5. Resources for Students Dealing with Financial Stress

Collaboration policy and Academic Honesty

Students are encouraged to discuss assignments with each other. However, you must write up your assignments on your own. You must also be in a position to discuss/explain your answers on an individual basis. All incidents of academic dishonesty (cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, or helping another student to commit one of these acts) will be subject to the UCLA policy in this matter.

Make sure to read the Student Conduct Code at:
`https://www.deanofstudents.ucla.edu/Student-Conduct` and the Student Guide to Academic Integrity at: `https://www.deanofstudents.ucla.edu/Academic-Integrity`. Consult these sources for more detail on procedures and possible sanctions.

Students may be disciplined for violations or attempted violations (including aiding, abetting, or participating in the planning of an act that would be in violation of this Code, whether or not the individual who carries out that act is a student). Violations include the following types of misconduct:

- *Cheating* - the failure to observe the expressed procedures of an academic exercise, including but not limited to:
    - Unauthorized acquisition of knowledge of an examination or part of an examination
    - Allowing another person to take a quiz, exam, or similar evaluation for you
    - Using unauthorized materials, information, or study aids in any academic exercise or examination - textbook, notes, formula list, calculator, etc.
    - Unauthorized collaboration in providing or requesting assistance, such as sharing information on an academic exercise
    - Unauthorized use of another person's data in completing a computer exercise
    - Altering a graded exam or assignment and requesting that it be regraded

- *Facilitating Academic Dishonesty* - participating in any action that compromises the integrity of the academic standards of the University; assisting another to commit an act of academic dishonesty, including but not limited to:
    - Taking a quiz, exam, or similar evaluation in place of another person
    - Allowing another student to copy from you
    - Providing material or other information to another student with knowledge that such assistance could be used in any of the violations stated above (e.g. giving test information to students in other discussion sections of the same course)

- *Plagiarism* - the presentation of another's words or ideas as if they were one's own, including but not limited to:
    - Submitting, as your own, through purchase or otherwise, part of or an entire work produced verbatim by someone else
    - Paraphrasing ideas, data, or writing without properly acknowledging the source
    - Unauthorized transfer and use of another person's computer file as your own

Medical Notes

The Ashe Center (student health) recently implemented an online system that allows students to self-generate their own non-verified medical notes. This has led to system where students can now obtain three different types of medical notes:

a. Self-Generated (not verified) statement of Illness or Injury
b. Verified Illness or Injury
c. Student was in an appointment during class time

While we are required to make reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities, faculty can decide to whether to accept medical notes, even verified ones, at their own discretion.

Disabilities

If you are seeking registration with the Center for Accessible Education (CAE), please submit your request for accommodations via CAE website (`www.cae.ucla.edu`) . If you are already registered with CAE, please

request your Letter at (310) 825-1501 or in person at A255 Murphy Hall. In order to ensure accommodations, students need to contact the CAE as soon as possible, as it may take up to two weeks to review the request.

The Undergraduate Writing Center

Book an appointment or learn more: `uwc.ucla.edu`

Phone: 310-206-1320 / Email: wcenter@g.ucla.edu

The Undergraduate Writing Center offers UCLA undergraduates free, one-on-one feedback and support on their writing. The UWC is staffed by Peer Learning Facilitators (PLFs), fellow students who understand the challenges of writing at UCLA. PLFs are trained to help at any stage in the writing process, with writing assignments from any class, as well as research projects and application materials. They tailor meetings to the concerns of each writer.

Resources for Students Dealing with Financial Stress

- Bruin Shelter: http://www.bruinshelter.org/ Provides a safe, supportive environment for fellow college students experiencing homelessness by fostering a collaborative effort between universities, community-based organizations, and service providers.

- The CPO Food Shelter: `http://www.cpo.ucla.edu/cpo/foodcloset/`Provides free food for any UCLA student who may be experiencing hunger and/or struggling to attain food due to financial hardships.