

Topics in English Syntax: Outline

Doug Arnold

May 13, 2016

1 Basic Information

1. 31D200 1530S Special Lecture: Language and Information Sciences III
2. 31M200 1530S Special Lecture: Language and Information Sciences III

■ When: Thursday at 16:50 (plus extra slots to be arranged)

■ Where: Media Lab, Blg 18

■ Staff:

▶ Doug Arnold, University of Essex

• WebPage: <http://privatewww.essex.ac.uk/~doug/>

• <mailto:doug@essex.ac.uk>

Course Materials: <https://DougArnold.paperplane.io/ToDai2016>.

2 Aims

The goal of this course is to explore in detail a number of topics in English grammar, focussing on syntax and semantics. Apart from basic constructions (basic clause structure, internal structure of verb phrases, and noun phrases, relative clauses), we will look at some less studied constructions, including idioms, the grammar of non-restrictive modifiers, ‘degree words’ (*too*, *so*, *enough*, etc.), puzzling agreement phenomena, restrictions on adjective phrases (cf. *a man fond of person* vs */a fond of children person/), noun phrases which appear to be headed by an adjective (*the poor*), and other apparently ‘headless’ constructions.

3 Textbook

There is no required textbook, but Kim & Sells (2008) might be useful background. (Jong-Bok Kim and Peter Sells. *English Syntax: An Introduction*. CSLI Publications, Stanford, Ca., 2008.)

4 Reading

Reference material will mainly be in the form of papers that are available on-line (for downloading) . Details will be given on a topic-by-topic basis. Reference will occasionally be made to Huddleston & Pullum (2002). (Rodney Huddleston and Geoffrey K Pullum, editors. *The Cambridge grammar of the English language*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 2002.)

5 Assessment

- To be discussed:
 - ▶ what?
 - ▶ when?

6 Students

31167003	Itou, Katsumase
31166006	Tsumara, Seki
31166007	Nakabayashi, Akiko
31166010	Hayashi, Tastyua
31166022	Sou, Zui

7 Programme

Month	Dau		Session	Notes	Week	iso week
Apr	28		-		1	16
May	5		-		2	17
=>	12	16:50	1/13		3	18
	19	16:50	2/13		4	19
	26	16:50	3/13		5	20
June	2		?	final exam day (undergrads)	6	21
	9	16:50	4/13		7	22
	16	16:50	5/13		8	23
	23	16:50	6/13		9	24
	30	16:50	7/13		10	25

■ Notes:

- ▶ We need 13 sessions, over the remaining 7 or 8 weeks (8 weeks if we meet on June 2)
- ▶ So we need either 5 or 6 extra sessions
- ▶ What is the best way to do these?
 - run some double sessions?
 - meet twice some weeks?
 - do a weekend session or two?

8 Provisional Course outline, etc.

1. Introduction, Outline, Goals, Planning, Basic ideas, terminology, methods
2. Basics: main clauses, VP, NP, PP, AP, etc., complements, adjuncts, Long Distance Dependencies
3. Pre- and Post-Nominal Adjectives and APs
4. Relative Clauses (1)
5. Relative Clauses (2)
6. Non-restrictive Relatives and other Appositives
7. Degree Words, Extraposition, and the 'Big Mess'
8. Headless NPs (e.g. *the poor*)
9. A Strage Agreement Phenomenon
10. Idioms
11. TBA
12. TBA

13. Wrap-up, reflections, etc.

Additional Possibilities:

- Corpus Methods
- Fun and games with WALs (The World Atlas of Language Structures) [WALS Online](#)
- Coordinate Structures

9 Bibliography