Syntax LIN7209

Instructor: Suzana Fong
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Office: ArtsOne 1.17B

- **Class times:** Fridays, 2pm–4pm

- **Location:** Scape: 1.03

- **Office hours:** Mondays 3:30pm – 5pm, Tuesdays 10:30am – 11:30am or by appointment. Location: ArtsOne 1.17B

Description of the course

This course serves as an introduction to generative syntax and focuses on contemporary work in minimalism (Chomsky 1995 et seq.). We will introduce the basic theoretical machinery of minimalist theory and discuss some of the key empirical problems.

Assessment

Assessment for the course consists of two homework assignments, and a short research paper (i.e. a squib) written at the end of the course.

Grade computation and assessment deadline

Homework 1	33%	Due on Monday	01/November/2021	11:55pm
Homework 2	33%	Due on Monday	06/December/2021	11:55pm
Squib	33%	Due on Monday	10/January/2022	11:55pm

Readings

The reading for this course consists of a selection of papers from the contemporary syntactic literature. All readings will be available at QMplus.

Syllabus

Week		Topic and reading
1	01/Oct	What the Minimalist program is & Theta Domains
		Readings: Hornstein et al. (2005, ch. 1 and ch. 3)
2	08/Oct	Theta Domains, *continued*
3	15/Oct	Case

		Readings: Pesetsky & Torrego (2011) and Baker et al. (2010)
4	22/Oct	Agree
		Readings: D'Alessandro (2021) and Deal (2015)
5	29/Oct	Dependent case
		Readings: Baker et al. (2010)
5	05/Nov	Movement
		Reading: Nunes (2001, pp. 303–324/§1–3)
6	19/Nov	Diagnosing movement
		Reading: Pesetsky (2013)
8	26/Nov	Head movement
		Reading: Harley (2013)
9	03/Dec	Movement Theory of Control
		Readings: Hornstein (1999). Optional reading: Lee (2003)
10	10/Dec	Successive cyclicity and phases
		Reading: Van Urk (2020)
11	17/Dec	*TBA*

Contingency plans

- If in-person activities need to be cancelled because of Covid outbreaks, this course will be moved online and will be conducted via Zoom. The relevant information will be sent to students beforehand.

- If you test positive for Covid or come into contact with someone who does, please inform the instructor of this class (s.fong@qmul.ac.uk).

SLLF recommendations for continuing Covid mitigation actions

- We recommend and encourage you to **wear a face covering**, if you are able to, in indoor spaces such as offices, study spaces, and teaching rooms where you come into contact with others.

- We also remind you that not all disabilities are visible and not everyone can wear a face covering. If you are exempt from wearing face coverings, you may choose to wear a lanyard to indicate this.

- If you feel vulnerable if others are not wearing them, you can increase your own protection by using face coverings which protect against inhalation as well as exhalation of droplets.

References

[1] Baker, Mark C., and Nadya Vinokurova. "Two modalities of case assignment: Case in Sakha." *Natural Language & Linguistic Theory* 28, no. 3 (2010): 593–642. DOI: https://doi.org/10.1007/s11049-010-9105-1.

[2] Chomsky, Noam. 1995. "Bare Phrase Structure". In *Evolution and Revolution in Linguistic Theory. Essays in honor of Carlos Otero*, eds. Hector Campos and Paula Kempchinsky, 51–109.

[3] D'Alessandro, Roberta. 2021. "A short history of Agree". Ms., Utrecht University. Available at: https://ling.auf.net/lingbuzz/005888

[4] Deal, Amy Rose. "Interaction and satisfaction in ɸ-agreement."

[5] Harley, Heidi. "Getting morphemes in order: Merger, affixation, and head movement." In: Cheng, Lisa Lai-Shen, and Norbert Corver, eds. *Diagnosing syntax*. Vol. 46. Oxford University Press, 2013: 44–74.

[6] Hornstein, Norbert. "Movement and control." *Linguistic Inquiry* 30, no. 1 (1999): 69–96. DOI: https://doi.org/10.1162/002438999553968.

[7] Hornstein, Norbert, Jairo Nunes, and Kleanthes K. Grohmann. *Understanding minimalism*. Cambridge University Press, 2005.

[8] Lee, Felicia. "Anaphoric R–expressions as bound variables." *Syntax* 6, no. 1 (2003): 84–114. DOI: https://doi.org/10.1111/1467-9612.00057.

[9] Pesetsky, David and Torrego, Esther. 2011. "Case". in C. Boeckx, ed. *Handbook of Linguistic Minimalism*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 52–72. DOI: https://doi.org/10.1093/oxfordhb/9780199549368.013.0003.

[10] Van Urk, Coppe. "Successive cyclicity and the syntax of long-distance dependencies." *Annual Review of Linguistics* 6 (2020): 111–130. DOI: https://doi.org/10.1146/annurev-linguistics-011718-012318