Syntactic Structures (Linguistics 111)
Spring 2017, MWF 10:40-11:45, Social Sciences 1, Room 110

Instructor
Ivy Sichel, isichel@ucsc.edu
Stevenson 233
OH: Tu 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM, W 9:00 AM – 10:00 AM, and by appointment

TAs
Lauren McGarry, lemcgarr@ucsc.edu
OH: W 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM (Stevenson 249), and by appointment

Jed Pizarro-Guevara, jguevar@ucsc.edu
OH: W 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM (Stevenson 249), and by appointment

LSS Tutor
Anissa Zaitsu, azaitsu@ucsc.edu

You are eligible for two hours of tutoring per week. To sign up for tutoring, go to: https://eop.sa.ucsc.edu/OTSS/tutorsignup/

COURSE GOALS
This course is an introduction to the study of syntax with three overarching goals

• To introduce you to the goals of theoretical syntax: in particular, the theory of generative syntax, as it has developed out of the work of Noam Chomsky since the 1950s
• To teach you about the syntactic systems found in the world’s languages, how they are systematically different from one another, and what they have in common
• To advance your abilities to analyze and discuss syntactic data, both orally and in writing

COURSE REQUIREMENTS
1. Attendance and participation (5%): You are required to attend every class period and section and to participate actively. All content in the course will be introduced in the classroom

   Class: MWF 10:40 AM – 11:45 AM (Soc Sci 1, 110)
   Section A (Jed): M 1:20 PM – 2:25 PM (Cowell 216)
   Section B (Jed): M 2:40 PM – 3:45 PM (Cowell 216)
   Section C (Lauren): M 4:00 PM – 5:05 PM (Cowell 216)
   Section D (Lauren): M 5:20 PM – 6:25 PM (Cowell 216)

   2. Nine weekly homework assignments (80%): These will be due at the beginning of class on Friday. To pass the course, you must turn in 8 of these assignments and earn a passing grade on each one. We will accept a maximum of one late or missing assignment from each student—plan carefully which (if any) will be that assignment! If you turn in all 9, that’s great. We will simply drop the lowest grade
3. **A take-home final exam (15%)**: This will be due on Tuesday, June 13 by 3 PM.

4. **Extra credit (5%)**: You can earn a credit worth 5% of your final grade by participating in one linguistics experiment in the course of the quarter. You can sign up for an experiment at:

   [https://ucsc-ling.sona-systems.com/](https://ucsc-ling.sona-systems.com/)

   You should be able to schedule a time that works for you during this quarter. The slots fill up fast towards the end of the quarter, so make sure to schedule in advance. If you do not wish to participate in an experiment, there will be an alternative route to 5% extra credit, in the form of a worksheet related to experimental work, to be uploaded towards the ends of the term.

**COURSE WEBSITE AND MATERIALS**
There is no textbook or other assigned reading for the class. Assignments will be uploaded each week to the Canvas course website after class on Monday. If you are enrolled in the course, the course website should show up on your Dashboard when you login to Canvas at [https://canvas.ucsc.edu/](https://canvas.ucsc.edu/)

**ACCOMMODATIONS**
Any student who thinks they may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact me privately to submit their Accommodation Authorization and to discuss specific needs in the first two weeks of the quarter.

Please contact the Disability Resource Center at 831-459-2089 in 146 Hahn Student Services or by e-mail at drc@ucsc.edu to coordinate those accommodations.

**COLLABORATION AND ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**
You are encouraged to work out the solutions to the weekly assignments with other students. However, the work you submit must be your own work and must meet basic standards of academic honesty. When you turn in an assignment or an exam, it is your responsibility to ensure that:

- The work you submit was written up by you alone
- If you worked in a group with others, say who the members of that group are and give credit to others for their ideas and observations
- Your work is not copied by another student

If you fail to follow these guidelines, you are in violation of the university’s policies on academic integrity. All incidents of suspected academic dishonesty (including copying someone else’s work or allowing them to copy your work) will be pursued and may result in a Report of Academic Misconduct being filed with the student’s provost. This can lead to disciplinary hearings with the Academic Tribunal. More information about these policies can be found here:

[https://www.ue.ucsc.edu/academic_misconduct](https://www.ue.ucsc.edu/academic_misconduct)
For this course, it is particularly important that you never use the Internet to seek solutions to the problems assigned in the course. The theory of syntax we will buildup in the course is a synthesis of existing theories (in its terminology, in its component hypotheses, in the questions it aims to address). Therefore, information from the internet will lead you to the wrong answer 99% of the time. Moreover, using material from the Internet or from any published source without saying what those sources are is a violation of the university’s policies on academic integrity. If we suspect that a solution has been taken from the Internet, we will find the source, as it is easy to google a submitted solution. All such violations will be treated severely, resulting in a Report of Academic Misconduct and any other necessary punishment.

**SCHEDULE**

**Week 1: Basics and constituency**

M  Introduction to syntax as speakers’ knowledge about sentence structure, systematic syntactic variation, rules in a generative grammar, descriptive vs. prescriptive rules, grammatical vs. ungrammatical, semantic anomaly, ambiguity

W  The lexicon, syntactic categories, constituency

F  Constituency, phrase structure rules, grammar and grammaticality

**HW 1 due:** Syntactic variation, grammaticality, anomaly, ambiguity

**Week 2: Phrase structure grammar**

M  Terminology about trees, adding prepositional phrases (PPs)

W  Adding PPs, ambiguity and constituency, conjunction

F  Adjective phrase (AP)

**HW 2 due:** Adjectives in English

**Week 3: Selection**

M  Classes of verbs, subcategorization of verbs and other categories

W  Two types of PPs (argument vs. adjunct), adjunction in other categories

F  Determiner phrases (DPs) and possessives

**HW 3 due:** Possessives in English

**Week 4: Endocentricity**

M  Endocentricity, modals and tense, the syntax of TP
The syntax of TP, the representation of tense,
Embedded clauses, selection for C and T

**HW 4 due:** Clausal embedding in English

**Week 5: X-bar schema**

| M | X-bar schema, shapes of XP, regularizing AP, PP |
| W | Regularizing NP, Poss as D, pronouns as Ds, proper names and count nouns |
| F | Headedness parameters |

**HW 5 due:** Word order variation and PSRs in Japanese

**Week 6: XP-Movement**

| M | Passive transformations, PSR analysis |
| W | PSR analysis vs. Transformation analysis |
| F | Decomposing passive transformation, DP-movement, expletive insertion |

**HW 6 due:** Passivization in English and Danish

**Week 7: Morphology**

| M | Case rules, auxiliaries |
| W | The syntax of auxiliaries, the form of verbs, the verbal system of French |
| F | No class |

**HW 7 due** (Monday): Taking stock (derivation, case, sub-categorization, headedness)

**Week 8: Head movement (part I)**

| M | The verbal system of French |
| W | Adverbs and head raising (V-to-T) |
| F | English and French, negation |

**HW 8 due:** Negation in English and French

**Week 9: Head movement (part II)**
**M** Polar questions, generalizations

**W** Comparing PSR analysis vs. transformation analysis

**F** Embedded polar questions, interrogative CPs

**HW 9 due:** Embedded polar questions in Belfast English

**Week 10: Wh-movement**

**M** Wh-questions, generalizations, comparing PSR-analysis vs. transformation analysis

**W** Embedded wh-questions, pied piping

**F** Sluicing, WYSIWYG vs. deletion transformation (Guest lecture: Jed)

**FINAL due** (Tuesday, June 13 at 3PM)