

Syntactic structures (Linguistics 111)

Spring 2016, MWF 3:30–4:40, Porter 144

Instructor

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Stevenson 236

Office hours: Tu 2–3, W 10:30–11:30, and by appointment

TAs: Margaret Kroll, Bern Samko

LSS Tutor: Lyndsey Olsen

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 3:30–4:40 (Porter 144)

Section A: Th 8:00-9:10 (Cowell 223)

Section B: Th 4:00-5:10 (Cowell 223)

Section C: F 11:00-12:10 (Cowell 223)

Section D: F 12:30-1:40 (Cowell 223)

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 each of these assignments and earn a passing grade on each one. We will accept **a maximum of one late assignment** from each student—plan carefully which (if any) will be your late assignment!
3. A take-home final exam (15%): This will be due **on Tuesday, June 7 by 3 pm**.

4. Extra credit: You can earn extra 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:

<http://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.

Course website and materials

There is no textbook or other assigned reading for the class. Assignments will be uploaded each week to the eCommons course website **after class on Monday**.

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

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 build up 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.