Learning goals
This course provides an introduction to Principles and Parameters Theory (P&P), the foundation of current mainstream generative approaches to sentence structure. By the end of this course, students will be expected to be able to:

- reproduce all the core ingredients of P&P theory
- apply the principles and parameters of P&P syntax and perform syntactic analysis on their basis
- have access to the primary literature employing P&P theory
- be proficient at engaging in syntactic argumentation

Textbook [compulsory reading]

Other useful sources [optional reading]

Reading (itemised per section of the hand-out) [H=Haegeman (1994)]

- Generative Grammar — Universal Grammar — Principles & Parameters
  H: *Introduction* [in toto; section 3.3: cf. Chapter 2, section 2.1.2]

- The T–model: D–structure → S–structure → LF/PF
  H: p. 501

- The Lexicon
  H: Chapter 1 through section 3

- The Thematic Criterion — The (Extended) Projection Principle
  H: Chapter 1, sections 4 through 8

- Projection — X–bar Theory
  H: Chapter 1, section 5.1 [small clauses]; Chapter 2, section 2 [just lightly read sections 2.2 through 2.4]; Chapter 6, section 5 [read lightly, in connection with pp. 91–92]

- The Basic Structural Relations in the Tree
  H: Chapter 2, section 1

- The Structure of the Clause — Infl & IP
  H: Chapter 2, section 3 [except sections 3.3, 3.4]

- Movement and Trace Theory
  [no specific reading]

- Case Theory
  H: Chapter 3, section 1

- C–Command — Government — Spec–Head Agreement
  H: Chapter 3, sections 2, 3, 4, 6
• Referential Dependencies — The Binding Theory
  H: Chapter 4 [in toto]

• NP–Movement Revisited — The Passive — Unaccusativity
  H: Chapter 3, section 5 [except section 5.4]; Chapter 6, sections 1, 2 [pay special attention to p. 314] & 3

• Locality of Movement (I) — NP–Movement and the Binding Theory
  H: Chapter 6, sections 4.5.2 [cf. Chapter 4, section 7], 4.6.1 [cf. Chapter 3, section 6.2]

• PRO and Control Theory
  H: Chapter 5 [in toto]; Chapter 8, section 1 [pay special attention to section 1.6; read section 1.5.1 in combination with Chapter 6, section 4.6.1], section 3 [except 3.4; cf. Introduction section 4]

• Locality of Movement (II) — A’–Movement, Variables and Subjacency
  H: Chapter 6, section 1.2; Chapter 7 [in toto, except section 3.5 and p. 424 below examples in (5)]

• Traces and Licensing — The Empty Category Principle
  H: Chapter 7, section 5.2; Chapter 8, section 2

• Subjacency & ECP — Overview of Constraints on Movement
  H: Chapter 8, sections 4 & 5; on head movement: Chapter 2, section 3.3.2 & Chapter 11, section 1

• Logical Form — Movement at LF
  H: Chapter 9, sections 1 & 2 [also Chapter 7, section 3.5.2, on multiple wh-constructions];
  optional reading: Chapter 9, sections 4 [cf. Chapter 6, section 4.5.1] & 5

Credit final exam in two sections:
  (i) a take-home part (to be distributed approx. one month before the end of the course)
  (ii) an in-class part

Plus... regular homework assignments (not for credit), and attendance of the weekly Syntax Practicum (led by Christopher Wegenaar)

Office hours I do not have regular office hours; students who would like to come and talk to me should make an appointment with me by E-mail (I generally prefer late-afternoon appointments but am very flexible).

Marcel den Dikken
Linguistics Program
CUNY Graduate Center
365 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10016–4309
E-mail: MDen-Dikken@gc.cuny.edu
Phone: 212 817 8503
Room: 7400.05
Web: http://www.gc.cuny.edu/Page-Elements/Academics-Research-Centers-Initiatives/Doctoral-Programs/Linguistics/Faculty-Bios/Marcel-den-Dikken