

LINGUISTICS 72200 – SYNTAX II

SPRING 2021

THE GRADUATE CENTER, CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

INSTRUCTOR	Jason Kandybowicz
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OFFICE	Room 7400.05
OFFICE HOURS	Friday: 2:00-3:00pm virtually via Blackboard Collaborate, and by appointment
CLASS LOCATION	Virtually via Blackboard Collaborate (synchronous, but archived)
CLASS TIME	Wednesday: 11:45-1:45pm
CLASS WEBSITE	Course materials will be posted on the Blackboard course page

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course lays the foundation for current Minimalist syntactic theory. It examines the empirical and conceptual motivations for the shift from the Government & Binding framework to the Minimalist Program that took place in the early 1990s and explores recent developments in Minimalist theory.

LEARNING GOALS

- Engage with primary syntactic literature employing Minimalist theory
- Be capable of carrying out original independent syntax research using Minimalist theory

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Understand the conceptual and theoretical motivations for the core components of Minimalist theory
- Be proficient at engaging in syntactic argumentation within the Minimalist framework

TEXTBOOK

There is no required textbook for the course. Instead, we will read the primary Minimalist literature. All readings will be posted on the Blackboard course page in the Course Materials folder.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS & GRADING POLICY

- Attendance and participation: 20%
- Article review: 40%
- Squib or additional review: 40%

ARTICLE REVIEW

Students will write a 5-10 double-spaced page review of an article related to the material covered in class. Some suggested readings are provided in the Bibliography on pages 3-4. The article review will include: (i) a summary of the general point (or points) made in the article; (ii) one or two points of criticism regarding either the reasoning, argumentation, and/or data; and (iii) one or two well-articulated open questions regarding the analysis (or analyses) in the article (for example, the open questions could have to do with predictions made but not discussed in the article or with general theoretical and/or conceptual problems). The article you will review must be approved by: **April 7**. The article review is due **May 5**.

SQUIB/ADDITIONAL REVIEW

Ph.D. students will write an 8-12 page double-spaced “squib” (i.e. a short research paper) on a topic inspired by either the class readings/discussions or by their article review. The paper should either (i) provide a novel proposal/analysis or (ii) provide a discussion of novel data (from any language) collected by the student and spell out the theoretical implications of that data.

M.A. students have the option of either writing a squib or doing an additional article review (same guidelines as the first article review).

Your squib/additional review topic must be approved by: **May 12**. The squib/additional review is due **May 28**.

APPROXIMATE COURSE SCHEDULE (subject to periodic revision as needed)

CLASS	MONTH	DAY	TOPICS
1	February	3	LF: <i>wh</i> - in-situ; Introduction to the Minimalist Program Reading: Chomsky 1995 (Introduction & introduction to Ch. 3) Optional reading: Boeckx 2006 (Chapters 1 & 2)
2	February	10	Eliminating Deep Structure Reading: Chomsky 1993 (section 3)
3	February	17	Eliminating Surface Structure Reading: Chomsky 1993 (section 4)
4	February	24	Eliminating Government: Theta Theory Reading: Larson 1988
5	March	3	Eliminating Government: Case Theory Reading: Pollock 1989
6	March	10	Eliminating Government: Control Theory (Part I) Reading: Hornstein 1999
7	March	17	Eliminating Government: Control Theory (Part II) Reading: Hornstein 1999
8	March	24	Eliminating X-bar Theory: Bare Phrase Structure & Antisymmetry Readings: Chomsky 1995 (sections 4.3 & 4.8); Kayne 1994 (pp. 3-41)
	March	31	No class – Spring Break
9	April	7	Eliminating Traces: Copy Theory of Movement Reading: Nunes 1999 Article review approval deadline
10	April	14	Reformulating Binding Theory Reading: Chomsky 1995 (section 3.5)
11	April	21	Covert Movement: Move-F Reading: Chomsky 1995 (sections 4.4 – 4.5.2)
12	April	28	Covert Movement: Agree Optional Reading: Chomsky 2000
13	May	5	Phase Theory Reading: Chomsky 2001 Article review due
14	May	12	Case Study of a Minimalist Analysis: Collins’ Smuggling Theory of the Passive Reading: Collins 2005 Squib/additional review topic approval deadline
	May	28	Squib/additional review due

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Class readings (optional readings included):

- Boeckx, Cedric. 2006. *Linguistic Minimalism: Origins, Concepts, Methods, and Aims*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Chomsky, Noam. 1993. A Minimalist Program for Linguistic Theory. In Ken Hale and Samuel Jay Keyser (eds.), *The View from Building 20: Essays in Linguistics in Honor of Sylvain Bromberger*, 1-52. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press. [Reprinted in Chomsky 1995.]
- Chomsky, Noam. 1995. *The Minimalist Program*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.
- Chomsky, Noam. 2000. Minimalist Inquiries: The Framework. In Roger Martin, et al. (eds.), *Step by Step: Essays on Minimalist Syntax in Honor of Howard Lasnik*, 89-155. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.
- Chomsky, Noam. 2001. Derivation by Phase. In Michael Kenstowicz (ed.), *Ken Hale: A Life in Language*, 1-51. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.
- Collins, Chris. 2005. A Smuggling Approach to the Passive in English. *Syntax* 8: 81-120.
- Hornstein, Norbert. 1999. Movement and Control. *Linguistic Inquiry* 30: 69-96.
- Kayne, Richard. 1994. *The Antisymmetry of Syntax*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.
- Larson, Richard K. 1988. On the Double Object Construction. *Linguistic Inquiry* 19: 335-391.
- Nunes, Jairo. 1999. Linearization of Chains and Phonetic Realization of Chain Links. In Sam Epstein and Norbert Hornstein (eds.), *Working Minimalism*, 217-249. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.
- Pollock, Jean-Yves. 1989. Verb Movement, UG and the structure of IP. *Linguistic Inquiry* 20: 365-424.

Some suggested readings for article review:

- Bošković, Željko. 2002. On Multiple *Wh*-Fronting. *Linguistic Inquiry* 33: 351-383.
- Citko, Barbara. 2005. On the Nature of Merge: External Merge, Internal Merge, and Parallel Merge. *Linguistic Inquiry* 36: 475-496.
- Collins, Chris. 2005. A Smuggling Approach to Raising in English. *Linguistic Inquiry* 36: 289-298.
- Donati, Catarina. 2006. On *Wh*-Head Movement. In Lisa Lai-Shen Cheng and Norbert Corver (eds.), *Wh-Movement: Moving On*, 21-46. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.
- Fox, Danny and David Pesetsky. 2004. Cyclic Linearization of Syntactic Structure. *Theoretical Linguistics* 31: 1-46.
- Groat, Erich M. 1999. Raising the Case of Expletives. In Samuel David Epstein and Norbert Hornstein (eds.), *Working Minimalism*, 27-43. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.
- Hale, Ken and Samuel Jay Keyser. 1993. On Argument Structure and the Lexical Expression of Grammatical Relations. In Ken Hale and Samuel Jay Keyser (eds.), *The View from Building 20: Essays in Linguistics in Honor of Sylvain Bromberger*, 53-110. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.
- Hornstein, Norbert. 1999. Minimalism and Quantifier Raising. In Samuel David Epstein and Norbert Hornstein (eds.), *Working Minimalism*, 45-75. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.
- Landau, Idan. 2003. Movement Out of Control. *Linguistic Inquiry* 34: 471-498.
- Martin, Roger. 1999. Case, the Extended Projection Principle, and Minimalism. In Samuel David Epstein and Norbert Hornstein (eds.), *Working Minimalism*, 1-25. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.
- Matushansky, Ora. 2006. Head Movement in Linguistic Theory. *Linguistic Inquiry* 37: 69-109.
- Nunes, Jairo. 2001. Sideward Movement. *Linguistic Inquiry* 32: 303-344.
- Pesetsky, David and Esther Torrego. 2001. T-to-C: Causes and Consequences. In Michael Kenstowicz (ed.), *Ken Hale: A Life in Language*, 355-426. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.

- Richards, Norvin. 1999. Featural Cyclicity and the Ordering of Multiple Specifiers. In Samuel David Epstein and Norbert Hornstein (eds.), *Working Minimalism*, 127-158. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.
- Richards, Norvin. 2010. A Distinctness Condition on Linearization. Appears as Chapter 2 in Richards 2010 – *Uttering Trees*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.
- Vicente, Luis. 2009. An Alternative to Remnant Movement for Partial Predicate Fronting. *Syntax* 12: 158-191.