

LINGUISTICS 72100 – SYNTAX I

FALL 2022

THE GRADUATE CENTER, CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

INSTRUCTOR:	Jason Kandybowicz
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OFFICE HOURS:	Friday: 11-12:00pm virtually via Blackboard Collaborate and by appointment
CLASS LOCATION:	Room TBD
CLASS TIME:	Wednesday: 2:00-4:00pm
PRACTICUM LOCATION:	Virtually via Blackboard Collaborate (synchronous, but recorded/archived)
PRACTICUM TIME:	Monday: 4:15-6:15pm
CLASS WEBSITE:	Course materials will be posted to the Blackboard course page

TEXTBOOK

There is no required textbook or reading for this course beyond the class handouts. If you feel you'd like optional/supplemental reading, I can make some suggestions.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course provides an introduction to Principles and Parameters Theory (P&P), the foundation of current mainstream generative approaches to phrase and sentence structure. P&P aims to explain the acquisition and cross-linguistic variation of syntactic phenomena by pursuing the idea that a pre-determined set of principles underlies the grammars of all languages and that the apparent differences we see among languages are the result of differences in parameter settings. Although we will examine similarities and differences between languages, English (and other European languages) will be a main point of reference in our understanding of the theory.

COURSE GOALS

Students will gain specialized knowledge of the syntax of English as well as aspects of the syntax of other languages. Students will develop critical thinking skills, experience with argumentation and analysis, and familiarity with the scientific method.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this course, students will be expected to be able to reproduce all core ingredients of P&P theory; apply P&P theory to perform syntactic analysis; demonstrate proficiency in syntactic argumentation; and engage with primary syntactic literature in the generative tradition.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING POLICY

- Attendance and participation: 20%
- Midterm exam (take-home): 40%
- Final exam (take-home): 40%

Optional weekly exercises will be posted to the Blackboard course page for practice. If you elect to complete these exercises, I will provide you with an answer key. There is no due date for these exercises.

PREPARATION FOR PRACTICUM

You will be expected to prepare for each practicum by doing two things: 1) working on the pre-assigned practicum exercises (if assigned that week) and 2) coming up with one or two questions about material from the course (these could be questions about material from lectures or practicum exercises). Your practicum exercise work and questions will not be submitted, but you are expected to have them prepared before each practicum meeting in order to facilitate a lively and productive discussion.

COURSE SCHEDULE (subject to periodic revision as needed)

CLASS	MONTH	DAY	TOPICS
	August	29	Practicum 1
1	August	31	Constituency
	September	5	No practicum – Labor Day
2	September	7	Phrase structure trees & structural relations
	September	12	Practicum 2
3	September	14	X-bar theory
	September	19	Practicum 3
4	September	21	Theta theory & the lexicon
	September	26	No practicum – Rosh Hashana
5	September	28	Head movement
	September	29	Practicum 4 – Classes follow Monday schedule
	October	3	Practicum 5
	October	5	No class – Yom Kippur
	October	10	No practicum – Columbus Day
6	October	12	Case theory
	October	17	Practicum 6
7	October	19	Case theory (Cont.) & Binding theory
	October	24	Practicum 7
8	October	26	Binding theory (Cont.)
	October	31	Practicum 8
9	November	2	Control
	November	7	Practicum 9
10	November	9	A-movement: raising, passives & unaccusatives
	November	14	Practicum 10
11	November	16	A-bar movement: <i>wh</i> - movement Midterm exam due (by 5pm)
	November	21	Practicum 11
12	November	23	Constraints on <i>wh</i> - movement: islands, subadjacency & superiority
	November	28	Practicum 12
13	November	30	Constraints on <i>wh</i> - movement: <i>comp-trace</i> & crossover effects
	December	5	Practicum 13
14	December	7	Null operators
	December	12	Practicum 14
	December	14	No class – Reading Day
	December	19	Final exam due (by 5pm)