

LING3510Q: Syntax

Spring 2014

Tu/Th 11:00-12:15, Oak 235

Prof. Susanne Wurmbrand

E-Mail: susanne.wurmbrand@uconn.edu

Office: Oak Hall 360

Office hours: Tuesday 10:00-11:00 or by appointment [Please e-mail me by Monday night if you intend to come to my office hours]

Course description

Analysis of the syntax of natural languages in a generative framework: phrase structure, movement, syntactic operations and dependencies.

Q course: Definition and criteria [<http://geoc.uconn.edu/QCompetency.htm>]

Q courses require the knowledge and use of mathematics and/or statistics at or above the basic algebra level as an integral part of the course. These courses might include comprehensive analysis and interpretation of data. The mathematical and/or statistical methods and skills required are those specific to the particular course and discipline. [...]

1. Courses must include use of basic algebraic concepts such as: formulas and functions, linear and quadratic equations and their graphs, systems of equations, polynomials, fractional expressions, exponents, powers and roots, problem solving and word problems. Formal abstract structures used in symbolic logic and other algebraic analyses are acceptable;
2. Courses should require the student to understand and carry out actual mathematical and/or statistical manipulations, and relate them to whatever data might be provided in order to draw conclusions. [...]

Academic Integrity — “The Student Code”

Academic dishonesty or misconduct of any type will not be tolerated in this class. Please refer to the Student Code (http://www.community.uconn.edu/student_code.html) for specific guidelines.

Grading Policy

Course requirements	
2 Midterms	40%
Final exam	25%
5 Homeworks	25%
5 In-class projects	10%

Numerical score/letter grade conversion					
93-100	A	80-82	B-	67-69	D+
90-92	A-	77-79	C+	63-66	D
87-89	B+	73-76	C	60-62	D-
83-86	B	70-72	C-	0-59	F

Homeworks

Homeworks are posted as .pdf files on HuskyCT the week before they are due. It is your responsibility to download and print the homeworks (to read the files you need a pdf viewer). **Homeworks are due in class on Thursdays.** Late homeworks received any time after the end of class (12:15PM) on the Thursday on which they are due and before the beginning of class (11:00AM) on the following Tuesday will be accepted and scored with a deduction of 20% for lateness. Late homeworks received any time after the beginning of the Tuesday class following their due date will not receive any credit anymore.

You may discuss your homework with a student in this course (study groups are excellent supplementary learning mechanism and are encouraged). HOWEVER: You may NOT simply copy another student's answers, nor may a group turn in one common set of answers (whether or not they are written on multiple pages with different names on the top).

In-class projects

There will be 5 in-class projects, each worth 2% of the semester grade. The projects are not scheduled ahead of time—regular attendance is thus necessary to receive these points. The primary purpose of the in-class projects is learning. Most of the projects will involve group exercises, and students will learn via trial and error and discovery. There will be no deductions for incorrect answers—full 2% will be credited for the participation in each project.

Exams

Please note the scheduled dates for the exams and avoid any conflicts. Make-up exams (for the midterm exams) are available only to students who have a legitimate and documented excuse for missing an exam.

The preliminary date for the final exam is Tuesday, May 6, 2014, 10:30 – 12:30. Please check the registrar’s web page (<http://www.registrar.uconn.edu>) for updates. University rules require that you take the final exam at the time published (there is no make-up exam for the final exam).

Course material

The course text book is: *Grammar as Science*. 2010. R. K. Larson & K. Ryokai. MIT Press. The book is available at the Coop and also as an e-book in the UConn Library.

You are responsible for reading the assigned pages prior to the lecture for which they are assigned. Unless otherwise noted, material in the readings is examinable. **Note:** Additional materials will be distributed in class. Regular attendance is therefore important since the class will cover material not discussed in the readings. As a policy, lecture notes will not be posted online.

Schedule (subject to change)

Week	Dates	Topic	Textbook	Important dates
1	Jan 21, 23	Grammars and theories; PS-rules	Units 1-3	
2	Jan 28, 30	Recursion, constituency tests	Units 4-6	Thu: HW1 due
3	Feb 4, 6	Why NP, VP? Beyond English	Units 7-8	
4	Feb 11, 13	Syntactic relations, categories, revising	Units 9-10	Thu: HW2 due
5	Feb 18	Review and exercises		
	Feb 20	First Exam		
6	Feb 25, 27	Lexicon, features, subcategorization	Units 13-14	
7	Mar 4, 6	Complements vs. adjuncts	Units 15-16	Thu: HW3 due
8	Mar 11, 13	Complements vs. adjuncts cont'd	Units 17-18	
		SPRING BREAK		
9	Mar 25	Review and exercises		
	Mar 27	Second Exam		
10	Apr 1, 3	Complement sentences	Units 19-20	
11	Apr 8, 10	Control	Unit 21	Thu: HW4 due
12	Apr 15, 17	NP-structure	Unit 22	
13	Apr 22, 24	X-bar theory, language variation	Unit 23	Thu: HW5 due
14	Apr 29, May 1	Review and exercises		