

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

Lin 441/641: Syntactic Analysis

Spring 2023

Instructor: Dr. Jaklin Kornfilt

Office: 305 HBC

Location of class: 207 HL (tentative)

Office hours: Wed 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. and by appointment (in person, or via Zoom or Skype)

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### Course description:

An introduction to generative syntax, essentially using the Government and Binding model, with a brief introduction to the Minimalist Program. Basic concepts of theoretical syntax will be introduced (see the topics listed in the course outline on p. 2 of this syllabus). Data will be drawn from English as well as from a variety of other languages. This course serves as a foundation for future study of syntax and related sub-disciplines within linguistics (e.g. morphology, historical linguistics, the morphology – syntax interface, the syntactic aspects of fieldwork). Problem sets will be used for practicing argumentation and analytical skills. Students will learn how to base their arguments on linguistic facts and how to couch them in scientific approaches. Creativity in proposed solutions will be a particular focus of this course. In those instances where more than one empirically successful analysis is possible, students will learn how criteria of evaluation can be applied to rival solutions within scientific approaches. Weekly written homework assignments will be returned promptly with comments and will be discussed in class, as will the midterm take-home exam, and drafts of the term paper.

This course focuses on two of Syracuse University's Shared Competencies:

1. Critical and creative thinking
2. Scientific inquiry and research skills

### Course learning objectives:

1. Students will use problem sets to practice argumentation and analytical skills.
2. Students will learn how to base their arguments on linguistic facts and how to couch them in scientific approaches.
3. Students will learn how to propose creative solutions.

### Prerequisites:

LIN 301/601 or permission of the instructor.

**Text:** Required: Andrew Carnie: **Syntax: A Generative Introduction**; fourth edition; Blackwell Publishers; 2013. (SU Bookstore, in the Student Center; Tel.: 315.443.9901; Syracuse.ecampus.com.)

There will also be additional handouts and exercises; supplementary readings might be assigned depending on interest and topic.

**Course requirements:**

Frequent problem sets, to be solved at home in writing and discussed in class. (Late homework sets will not be accepted after class discussion has taken place.)

One mid-term (take-home) examination; one final (take-home) examination. One term paper.

**Grading:**

Final exam and term paper: 30% each

Mid-term: 20%

Homework and classroom participation: 20%

Grading of undergraduate work will be different from the way the work of graduate students will be graded in this course; the grading curve for the undergraduate participants will be separate from that for graduate students in each exam and for all homework assignments.

For the term papers, observations of native speaker utterances will have to be offered by both groups, as well as generalizations that hold of those observations, and summaries of relevant primary literature will have to be offered, including critique of work reported in such literature. **Creative proposals** to explain the generalizations arrived at will be a focus of the term papers. Discussions with the faculty teaching this course will be important while developing the generalizations and proposals presented in the term paper. This is the reason why it is important to decide on a research topic by the start of Spring Break. If time permits at the end of the semester, paper presentations of drafts will offer an additional opportunity for clarity and peer feedback. Length of paper: Anywhere between 12-20 single-spaced pages for graduates, 10-12 single-spaced pages for undergraduates.

(Tentative) course outline:

Week 1: Chapters 1-2: Generative grammar; parts of speech;

Week 2: Chapters 3-4: Constituency, trees, and rules; structural relations;

Week 3: Chapter 5: Binding Theory

Weeks 4, 5, 6: Chapters 6-8: X-bar Theory; Extending and Constraining X-bar Theory

Weeks 7, 8: Chapters 9-11: Functional Categories; Head Movement; DP Movement

Weeks 9, 10: Chapters 12, 13: WH-movement, locality; a unified theory of movement

Weeks 11, 12: Tentative: Chapters 14; 15; Expanded VPs; Raising, Control; empty categories

Week 13: Chapter 15 (continued)

Week 14: Review, presentation of student papers

Week 15: Continued: presentation of student papers

The mid-term will be handed out after the discussion of DP Movement.

First day of this class: Wednesday, January 18.

Last day of this class: Monday, May 1.

**Days without classes:**

Spring break: Sunday, March 12 – Sunday, March 19.

**Academic Integrity:**

*Syracuse University's Academic Integrity Policy reflects the high value that we, as a university community, place on honesty in academic work. The policy defines our expectations for academic honesty and holds students accountable for the integrity of all work they submit. Students should understand that it is their responsibility to learn about course-specific expectations, as well as about university-wide academic integrity expectations. The policy governs appropriate citation and use of sources, the integrity of work submitted in exams and assignments, and the veracity of signatures on attendance sheets and other verification of participation in class activities. The policy also prohibits students from submitting the same work in more than one class without receiving written authorization in advance from both instructors. Under the policy, students found in violation are subject to grade sanctions determined by the course instructor and non-grade sanctions determined by the School or College where the course is offered as described in the Violation and Sanction Classification Rubric. Syracuse University students are required to read an online summary of the University's academic integrity expectations and provide an electronic signature agreeing to abide by them twice a year during pre-term check-in on MySlice.*

*The Violation and Sanction Classification Rubric establishes recommended guidelines for the determination of grade penalties by faculty and instructors, while also giving them discretion to select the grade penalty they believe most suitable, including course failure, regardless of violation level. Any established violation in this course may result in course failure regardless of violation level.*

**Academic Integrity Online:**

*All academic integrity expectations that apply to in-person quizzes and exams also apply to take-home quizzes and exams. In this course, all work submitted for quizzes and exams must be yours alone. Discussing quiz or exam questions with anyone during the quiz or exam period violates academic integrity expectations for this course.*

*Using websites that charge fees or require uploading of course material (e.g. Chegg, Course Hero) to obtain exam solutions or assignments completed by others and present the work as your own violates academic integrity expectations in this course*

### **Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:**

*Syracuse University values diversity and inclusion; we are committed to a climate of mutual respect and full participation. There may be aspects of the instruction or design of this course that result in barriers to your inclusion and full participation in this course. I invite any student to contact me to discuss strategies and/or accommodations (academic adjustments) that may be essential to your success and to collaborate with the Center for Disability Resources (CDR) in this process.*

*If you would like to discuss disability-accommodations or register with CDR, please visit [Center for Disability Resources](#). Please call (315) 443-4498 or email [disabilityresources@syr.edu](mailto:disabilityresources@syr.edu) for more detailed information.*

*The CDR is responsible for coordinating disability-related academic accommodations and will work with the student to develop an access plan. Since academic accommodations may require early planning and generally are not provided retroactively, please contact CDR as soon as possible to begin this process.*

### **Statement Regarding Religious Holidays and Observances**

*[Syracuse University's Religious Observances Policy](#) recognizes the diversity of faiths represented in the campus community and protects the rights of students, faculty, and staff to observe religious holy days according to their traditions. Under the policy, students are given an opportunity to make up any examination, study, or work requirements that may be missed due to a religious observance, provided they **notify their instructors no later than the academic drop deadline**. For observances occurring **before the drop deadline**, notification is **required at least two academic days in advance**. Students may enter their observances in MySlice under Student Services/Enrollment/My Religious Observances/Add a Notification.*

The deadline for religious observance notifications is Tuesday, February 7, 2023.

### **A message from our administration, about intellectual property:**

*Original class materials (handouts, assignments, tests, etc.) and recordings of class sessions are the intellectual property of the course instructor. You may download these materials for your use in this class. However, you may not provide these materials to other parties (e.g., web sites, social media, other students) without permission. Doing so is a violation of intellectual property law and of the student code of conduct.*

### **Information about mental health resources:**

*Mental health and overall well-being are significant predictors of academic success. As such it is essential that during your college experience you develop the skills and resources effectively to navigate stress, anxiety, depression, and other mental health concerns. Please familiarize yourself with the range of resources the Barnes Center*

*provides (<https://ese.syr.edu/bewell/>) and seek out support for mental health concerns as needed. Counseling services are available 24/7, 365 days, at 315-443-8000.*

**Academic Drop Deadline and the Financial Drop deadline:** Both are February 7, 2023. Students may still withdraw from courses after these deadlines; this would place a 'WD' grade on their transcripts.