

The University of Western Ontario
Department of Modern Languages and Literatures
Principles of Syntax
SPANISH - SP 9700B
LINGUISTICS – LING 9601
LINGUISTICS HONOURS - LING 4248

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Form hypotheses about the structure of sentences based on data.
Produce arguments in support of certain analyses.
Compare different analyses and understand their relation to the data.
Understand how sentences are put together to form meaning.
Understand the relations between different parts of the sentence.
Understand the different causes of ambiguity.
Construct visual representations of the structure of sentences and parts of sentences.
Question any analysis that does not include evidence.

Textbook

Radford, Andrew. (2004). *Minimalist Syntax. Exploring the Structure of English*. Cambridge, Cambridge University Press.

Possible alternative:

Radford, Andrew. (2009). *Analysing English Sentences. A Minimalist Approach*. Cambridge, Cambridge University Press.

Helpful (for Spanish students):

Zagona, Karen. (2002). *The Syntax of Spanish*. Cambridge, Cambridge University Press. PC4361.Z34 2002

Eguren Gutiérrez, Luis Javier & Olga Fernández Soriano. (2004). *Introducción a una sintaxis minimista*. Madrid, Gredos. P291.E427 2004.

Required Work

: Students should propose analyses for the sentences that are under scrutiny and try to defend their interpretation. They must participate actively in the discussions.

: You have to summarize an article (around 5 pages) including the nature of the problem, **the main hypothesis and the arguments and the data that the author uses to support the thesis**.

: There is one mid-term and one final exam. The final exam is cumulative, and will cover everything covered in class. In the spirit of the aims of the course, in both exams you will be asked to illustrate the structure of sentences and explain why you think that is the correct analysis

: The paper will not be too long, around 10 pages. You will first produce an outline and a list of references. You can summarize the literature and choose a position, showing evidence for it, or you can extend the problem to cases not generally covered, such as dialect variation.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is a major academic offense (see Scholastic Offense Policy in the Western Academic Calendar). Plagiarism is the inclusion of

someone else's **verbatim** or **paraphrased** text in one's own written work without

Tentative course plan

January	Content
1	Introduction to the course Radford, Chapter 1/2
2	Radford, Chapter 3
3	Radford, Chapter 4
4	Radford, Chapter 5
February	
5	Review

