

**LINGUIST 9601A/4248A**  
**(Advanced) Syntactic Analysis**

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**Course Description**

The goal of this course is to explore the syntactic approaches to the language structure. More specifically, we will focus on the Minimalist Program and will look at a range of topics (e.g. argument structure, case, binding). In parallel, students will develop a broader understanding of generative syntax and its puzzles. Students will also read original research articles on the topics from older and current literature.

**Objectives**

By the end of the course, students should:

- understand, describe and approach syntactic problems in natural languages from the minimalist perspective;
- feel confident reading formal syntactic literature;
- be able to present and critique research papers;
- be able to apply a theoretical analyses to original data;
- feel confident about doing original research within the provided framework.

**Format of the course:**

- lectures
- exercises and practice
- discussions on the concepts introduced in the papers
- group presentations
- solving empirical problems in class and at home (assignments)
- original research

**Textbook and Required Readings:**

- Hornstein, Norbert, Jairo Nunes and Kleanthes Grohmann. 2005. Understanding Minimalism. Cambridge University Press: Cambridge.
- Other readings will be available through the library and course reserves.

**Grading is based on:**

- in-class participation, activities etc. 10%
- 2 group presentations 20%

**Attendance:** Attendance and active participation in all classes is required.

**Group Presentations:**

Each student will participate in 2 group presentations. The goal is to read and present the central proposal of the paper, identify the empirical issues discussed, explain the important examples and outline possible implications. The presentation will be 20-30 minutes, depending on the article length and number of students in a group. It will be followed by discussion. The group will provide a handout or PowerPoint slides.

**Assignments**

Students will work on empirical data related to the issues discussed in class. The assignments will require them to use the key concepts, strength of the proposals and possible alternatives.

<b>Week 9</b> Nov 13	Binding	Presentation 2
<b>Week 10</b> Nov 20	Binding	Presentation 3
<b>Week 11</b> Nov 27	Features	Presentation 4 Outline of final paper

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