

LING 4020 - Section 001
Introduction to Syntax
Fall 2017

Instructor	Ed Rubin	Day	Tues. & Thurs.
Office	LNCO 2317	Time	9:10am-10:30am
Email	e.rubin@utah.edu	Room	ST 216
Office Hours	Wed 1:00-2:00pm & by appt.	Credit Hours	3

Note: This syllabus is meant to serve as an outline and guide for our course. Please note that I may modify it with reasonable notice to you. I may also modify the Course Schedule to accommodate the needs of our class. Any changes will be announced in class and posted on Canvas under Announcements.

Course Description

Introduction to the structure and organization of phrases and clauses in natural language. A scientific approach to an empirically motivated theory of syntax. Students learn terminology, problem-solving, logical argumentation, and its presentation.

Expansion: This course provides an introductory level survey of modern generative syntax. In the course we will explore properties of human syntactic knowledge, including knowledge of structures, the elements from which structures are built, relations among elements in those structures, and displacement properties they exhibit.

Course Materials

- **Textbook Used for the Course** (available at the campus bookstore or [here](#) or on Amazon):
Carnie, A. *Syntax: A generative introduction*, **3rd Edition**. Blackwell, 2013, ISBN 0470655313.
 - **Please note: The publisher has made errata available [here](#).** Do keep these available and correct your copy of the text before (or as) you read each part.
- **Other Readings:**
In addition to the required text, additional readings (i.e. articles and chapters) may be assigned where appropriate. These materials will be made available on Canvas.

Course Webpage

The course webpage is on Canvas [here](#). Schedule updates, assignments, announcements, resources and grades will be posted here. Please check the site regularly and ensure that you are set up to receive all class notifications and emails in a timely manner.

Learning Outcomes:

- Students will be able to describe the basic foundations of the modern study of syntax
- Students will be able to discuss the basic goals and assumptions of generative syntax

- Students will be able to complete basic syntactic analyses of unknown languages
- Students will be able to appreciate and discuss syntactic variability across natural languages

Course Requirements

Assessment

Your final grade in this course will be based on the following components:

READINGS	6%
EXPERIMENT PARTICIPATION	4%
QUIZZES	30%
EXAMS	45%
PROJECT	15%
TOTAL	100%

Readings:

You must read the chapters or sections by the date specified on the Course Schedule, which is available separately. After the first week of class, this means that you will be reading the material in anticipation of our discussion of it in the classroom. There will be a discussion thread on Canvas in which you should, before the due date, list the issues in the chapter that need further elaboration. Additionally, you will have to answer one or two short questions on Canvas related to the reading that is required. Our discussion in class will then consist, to the greatest extent possible, in doing problems together as a group.

Experiment Participation Requirement:

You are required to earn 1 participation credit (worth 4% of your final grade) for participation in Linguistics studies this semester. After you participate, you will write a 1 page (typed double-spaced) description of one of the studies which you participated in, detailing: [a] What you were asked to do, and [b] How you think it relates to questions in the field of Linguistics. This report is officially due on the last day of class (**Dec 7th**), but may be turned in on Canvas as soon as it is complete. **You are strongly encouraged to sign up early, rather than wait to the end of the semester to participate.** For more information and to sign up, please visit: <http://speechlab.utah.edu/participate.php>. If for any reason you are not comfortable participating in Linguistics studies for credit in this course, an alternative video assignment is also available. Please visit the Canvas page for details.

Quizzes:

There will be 3 quizzes, each worth 10% of your grade. Quizzes will be open book, and completed outside of class-time. They will be available to you for approximately two weeks, during which time you must work on them alone, consulting with me as needed, in class, email, or office hours.

Exams:

There will be one in-class exam, and two take-home exams, each of which is cumulative, and worth 15% of your grade. You must work alone on all three exams.

Project

You will develop and present a project on syntactic data from a language other than your native language(s). There will be subparts of this work (e.g. initial data choice, refined data choice, initial analysis, etc) due throughout the semester as described on Canvas. This project is worth 15% of your grade.

Extra credit opportunity:

It is possible for you to earn an extra credit for this course. This can be accomplished by either [a] participating in an additional experimental study and writing about it as described above, or [b] by completing the alternative assignment in addition to your required study participation.

Grading Scale

		87 – 89	B+	77 – 79	C+	67 – 69	D+
94 – 100	A	84 – 86	B	74 – 76	C	64 – 66	D
90 – 93	A-	80 – 83	B-	70 – 73	C-	60 – 63	D-
						< 60	E

Student Responsibilities:

- Attend class regularly. [Attendance Policy](#) in the catalog/regulations.
- Arrive on time, and silence and store your cellphones/other devices during class.
- Participate in class discussion with thoughtful and constructive comments and questions.
- Avoid distracting behavior (e.g. chatting, checking email, texting, or browsing the web).
- Complete assignments and exercises thoroughly and on time.
- Communicate (as early as possible) about (un-)anticipated troubles, and emergencies.

Academic Conduct

You are expected to be familiar with and follow the University of Utah’s policies on [Student Academic Conduct \(Section V\)](#). Cheating, plagiarizing, research misconduct, misrepresenting one’s work, and/or inappropriate collaboration will not be tolerated; that is, all work you turn in must be your own. In accordance with the [College of Humanities Academic Misconduct Policy](#), a first instance of academic misconduct will result in a grade of zero for the relevant assignment; a second instance will result in a failing grade for the course.

Equal Access:

The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services, and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in this class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the [Center for Disability Services](#), 162 Olpin Union Building, 801-581-5020. CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations. All written information in this course can be made available in an alternative format with prior notification to the [Center for Disability Services](#).

Writing Help

This course requires a significant amount of expository writing. Clarity in your writing will count toward your exam and assignment grades. If you need support and guidance with respect to writing, you should contact the Writing Center (<http://writingcenter.utah.edu/>).