

English 304, Fall 2005

Generative Syntax

Instructor Jack B. Martin, Tucker 109, 221-3906, jbmart@wm.edu

Office hours MW 12:15-1:15

Class time and place MWF 11-11:50am, Tucker 213

Generative Syntax is designed to give students a better understanding of English sentence structure, methods used to determine that structure, and specific theoretical approaches in the Chomskyan tradition for modeling how speakers learn and understand language.

The course begins with an introduction to a traditional (ca. 1968) view of phrase structure and phrase structure rules. We then turn to more theoretically-oriented developments from the 1970's to the mid-1990's. If there is sufficient time, we will consider Lexical Functional Grammar or competing models of syntax.

Text: Carnie, Andrew. 2002. *Syntax: A Generative Introduction*. Blackwell Publishing.

Tentative schedule (major assignments in *italics*, readings from Carnie underlined)

	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	Week and topic
			...	24	<u>25</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>27</u>	1 Basic assumptions (<u>C1</u>), categories, early views of syntax
Aug.	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	2 Categories, trees, rules (<u>C2</u>)
Sept.	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	3 Categories, trees, rules (<u>C2</u>)
	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	4 Structural relations (<u>C3</u>), MIDTERM 1
	18	19	20	21	22	23	<u>24</u>	5 Binding theory (<u>C4</u>), X'-theory (<u>C5</u>)
	<u>25</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>30</u>	1	6 X'-theory (<u>C5</u>)
Oct.	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	7 Functional categories CP, TP, DP (<u>C6</u>)
	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	8 FALL BREAK, Theta roles, theta grids, EPP (<u>C7</u>)
	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	9 Head-to-head movement (<u>C8</u>)
	23	24	<u>25</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>29</u>	10 NP movement (<u>C9</u>), MIDTERM 2
	<u>30</u>	<u>31</u>	1	2	3	4	5	11 Raising, control (<u>C10</u>)
Nov.	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	12 Wh-movement (<u>C11</u>)
	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	13 Toward minimalism (<u>C12</u>)
	20	21	22	23	24	25	<u>26</u>	14 LFG (<u>C12</u>), THANKSGIVING
	<u>27</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>30</u>	1	2	3	15 LFG (<u>C12</u>), summary
Dec.	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
	11	12	13	14	15	...		<i>Final exam 12/12, 8:30-11:30am</i>

Prerequisites

Anthropology/English 220 (Study of Language)

Requirements

Homework and report:	15%
Midterm 1:	20%
Midterm 2:	20%
Final exam:	45%

There will be periodic homework assignments to make sure you understand the reading and lectures. The midterms and final exam cover similar material. Each student will also write one report (worth two homework assignments) reviewing some article or book chapter by Noam Chomsky.

Resources

- Handouts will be available on Blackboard.
- A web-based tree drawing program is available at: www.ironcreek.net/phpsyntaxtree/. To use it, replace the bracketed structure in the window with the one you want and press draw. Right click on the picture and save it somewhere. Then in Word, choose Insert > Picture > From file and locate your saved file. It might appear blank in your document if you don't have View in Word set to Print Layout. It might also be a little tricky using special characters with this program.
- An online syntax textbook by Beatrice Santorini and Anthony Kroch is available at www.ling.upenn.edu/~beatrice/syntax-textbook/toc-long.html. You might use this to supplement topics covered in class.