

# Challenging Grammar – ANL21003BA/AN21040MA/AN1050MA

2-credit seminar  
Spring 2022

## Course Description

This course is a follow-up to *Introduction to Linguistics*. Its primary goal is to provide students with the tools necessary to analyze various grammatical phenomena within the framework of minimalism. Topics to be covered include categories and features, the Merge operation, Theta Theory, Case Theory and agreement. Although we will focus on the grammar of English, we will also look at data from other languages for cross-linguistic comparison. An important upshot of this course is that the students learn how to formulate a hypothesis and how to test the predictions of a hypothesis in linguistic theorizing.

## Textbook

Koenenman, Olaf & Hedde Zeiljstra. 2017. *Introducing Syntax*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

## Grading

The final grade will be based on a midterm test and an endterm test. Grades on the midterm test will carry a weight of 40% of the final grade, whereas grades on the endterm test will carry a weight of 60%. Retake opportunities will not be available for the two tests.

## Attendance

No more than three absences are allowed, illness included.

## Weekly Syllabus

<b>Week#</b>	<b>Class content</b>	<b>Reading assignments</b>
<b>Week 1</b>	The Language Machine	pp. 1-6
<b>Week 2</b>	Categories and Features	pp. 7-29
<b>Week 3</b>	Merge 1	pp. 30-53
<b>Week 4</b>	Merge 2	
<b>Week 5</b>	Problem sets	
<b>Week 6</b>	Theta Theory 1	pp. 54-77

<b>Week 7</b>	Theta Theory 2	
<b>Week 8</b>	<b>Spring break –No class meeting</b>	
<b>Week 9</b>	<b>Midterm test</b>	
<b>Week 10</b>	Case Theory 1	pp. 78-109
<b>Week 11</b>	Case Theory 2	
<b>Week 12</b>	Agreement and Uninterpretable Features 1	pp. 110-137
<b>Week 13</b>	Agreement and Uninterpretable Features 2  Review	
<b>Week 14</b>	<b>Endterm Test</b>	

### **Place and Time**

Room XIV, Wednesday 10:00-11:40 a.m.

Room II, Thursday 10:00-11:40 a.m.

### **Contact**

Éva Kardos

[kardoseva@unideb.hu](mailto:kardoseva@unideb.hu)

### **Office hours**

Wednesday and Thursday 1:00-2:00 p.m. (Room 12)