

Terms and Concepts in Literary and Linguistic Studies: Introduction to Minimalism

BTAN1003MA
5-credit lecture course
Fall 2022

Course Description

This course is concerned with syntactic theory and 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, agreement and movement/Remerge. Although our main focus is the grammar of English, we will also look at data from other languages for cross-linguistic comparison.

Textbook

Koenenman, Olaf & Hedde Zeijlstra. 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%.

The grading scale in this course will be as follows:

91% - 100% - 5

81% - 90% - 4

71% - 80% - 3

61% - 70% - 2

0% - 60% - 1

Attendance

No more than three absences are allowed, illness included.

Weekly Syllabus

Week#	Class content	Reading assignments
Week 1	The Language Machine Categories and Features	pp. 1-29
Week 2	Merge	pp. 30-53

Week 3	No class meeting	A make-up class will be scheduled for the end of the semester.
Week 4	Theta Theory	pp. 54-77
Week 5	Case Theory	pp. 78-109
Week 6	Review	
Week 7	Midterm Test (60 mins) Agreement and Uninterpretable Features 1	
Week 8	Agreement and Uninterpretable Features 2	pp. 110-137
Week 9	Fall break – No class meeting	
Week 10	Movement and Remerge 1	pp. 138-163
Week 11	Movement and Remerge 2	
Week 12	Unifying Movement and Agreement 1	pp. 164-193
Week 13	Unifying Movement and Agreement 2 Review	
Week 14	Endterm Test (90 mins)	

Place and Time

Room 55

4:00 p.m. – 7:15 p.m. on Wednesdays (15-min break at 5:30 p.m.)

Contact

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