

Challenging Grammar

ANL21003BA/AN2104OMA/AN1050MA

2-credit seminar

Spring 2023

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 and agreement. Although our main focus will be 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 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%. Retake opportunities will not be available for the two tests.

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	Theta Theory 1	pp. 54-77
Week 4	Theta Theory 2	
Week 5	Review	

Week 6	Case Theory 1	pp. 78-109
Week 7	Case Theory 2	
Week 8	Midterm Test (60 mins)	
Week 9	<i>Spring break</i>	
Week 10	<i>IWMSED 2023</i>	<i>No class meeting</i>
Week 11	Agreement and Uninterpretable Features 1	pp. 110-137
Week 12	Agreement and Uninterpretable Features 2	
Week 13	Review	
Week 14	Endterm Test (90 mins)	

Place and Time

Monday 8:00 – 9:40 (Room 111)

Tuesday 8:00 – 9:40 (Room XIV)

Friday 10:00 – 11:40 (Room XIV)

Contact

Éva Kardos

E-mail: kardoseva@unideb.hu

Office hours: Monday & Tuesday 12:00 – 13:00