

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

BTAN1003MA
5-credit lecture course
Spring 2024

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 will be on 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 Feb. 15	The Language Machine Categories and Features	pp. 1-29
Week 2 Feb. 22	Merge	pp. 30-53

Week 3 Feb. 29	Theta Theory	pp. 54-77
Week 4 Mar. 7	Case Theory	pp. 78-109
Week 5 Mar. 14	Review	
Week 6 Mar. 21	Midterm Test (60 mins) Agreement and Uninterpretable Features 1	pp. 110-137
Week 7 Mar. 28	Agreement and Uninterpretable Features 2	
Week 8	Spring break – No class meeting	
Week 9 Apr. 11	Movement and Reemerge 1	pp. 138-163
Week 10 Apr. 18	Talk by Dr. Marwan Jarrah (University of Jordan) On the derivation of subject <i>wh</i> -words and the theory of cartography	
Week 11 Apr. 25	Movement and Reemerge 2	
Week 12 May 2	Unifying Movement and Agreement 1	pp. 164-193
Week 13 May 9	Unifying Movement and Agreement 2	

Week 14 May 16	Endterm Test (90 mins)	
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Place and Time

Room 106

2:00 p.m. – 5:15 p.m. on Wednesdays (15-min break at 3:30 p.m.)

Contact

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Friday 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.