

Syllabus: LIN232H1F Syntactic Patterns

September - December 2014, Department of Linguistics

University of Toronto

1 Overview

Instructor	Alex Motut (Office: SS 4086)
Email	alex.motut@mail.utoronto.ca
Office hours	Wednesdays 1-3 pm <i>or by appointment</i>
TA	Clarissa Forbes, Safieh Moghaddam, and Becky Tollan
Lectures	Mondays 7 - 9 pm, SS 2118
Tutorials	Wednesdays, 4, 5, 6 pm, SS 2105

2 Course Description & Learning Outcomes

Welcome to LIN232, *Syntactic Patterns*. This course will give students basic tools for analyzing syntactic structures within the formal framework known as generative grammar. After completing the course, students will have an understanding of the methodology used by theoretical linguists, and will understand the basic mechanisms theoretical linguists have proposed to account for natural language patterns of grammar across many languages. The course focuses extensively on argumentation, evidence, and the formulation of hypotheses in syntax, with an emphasis on practicing the skills of syntactic analysis.

The **prerequisite** for this course is **LIN100Y1Y: Introduction to General Linguistics**. If you do not have the required prerequisite, you need to come speak to me immediately.

Graduate students enrolled in LIN1032H: please identify yourselves to me after lecture or by sending me an email.

3 Course Materials

Required Textbook and Workbook Set (please ensure you have a copy of the **3rd Edition**) :

1. Carnie, Andrew. (2013.) *Syntax: A Generative Introduction*, 3rd Edition. Wiley-Blackwell.
2. Carnie, Andrew. (2013.) *The Syntax Workbook: A Companion to Carnie's Syntax*. Wiley-Blackwell.

Both of the above are available as a set at the U of T bookstore, and can also be purchased online from the publisher or Amazon. Other (not required) books you may find helpful as resources (note I may occasionally assign additional readings during the course):

- Cowper, Elizabeth. (1992.) *A Concise Introduction to Syntactic Theory: The Government and Binding Approach*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

- Haegeman, Lilliane. (2009.) *Thinking Syntactically: A Guide to Argumentation and Analysis*. Blackwell.
- Larson, Richard. (2010.) *Grammar as Science*. MIT Press.

4 Evaluation

See the table below for the breakdown of the evaluation in the course:

	%	Date
Quiz I	5 %	Sept 24
Quiz II	5 %	Nov 19
Participation	10 %	
Homework	20 %	See Schedule
Midterm Test	25 %	Oct 20
Final Exam	35 %	Date TBA

4.1 Participation

4.1.1 Attendance

We will be taking attendance in both lecture and tutorial. Attendance at lectures and tutorials is mandatory. Since this course is very technical, it is very important that you maintain a high level of attendance. One or even two missed classes/tutorials may not affect your mark greatly in the long run, but significant absences will affect both your participation mark as well as your understanding of the content. We will keep track of participation in both lectures and tutorials.

In addition, it is important that you attend tutorials since practice questions assigned at the end of lecture will typically be taken up during tutorial, and quizzes/the midterm/homework assignments will be taken up in tutorial. The quizzes will also be held in tutorial (see Schedule). Please make sure that you are available for every tutorial session in addition to the lectures.

4.1.2 Lecture and Tutorial Participation

This may include things like asking questions in class/tutorial, answering questions posed in lecture or in tutorial, and completing other short written responses or exercises you may be asked to do during lecture or tutorial (which will be evaluated only for completeness, not for content.) Participation on the class discussion board may also be taken into consideration when calculating your participation marks.

4.1.3 Notetaking

While lecture slides will be posted after each lecture, it should also be emphasized that your own notes are crucial to your success in this course. In order to help encourage effective notetaking I will be asking for 5-6 volunteers at each lecture to post their notes on Blackboard for the class to see. **Disclaimer:** I will *not* be checking the notes to make sure they are accurate; nevertheless, I have found this kind of collaborative notetaking to be helpful in the past. Participation in this notetaking (volunteering to post your notes for 1 or more classes) will count towards your participation marks. Notes from the volunteers selected at the beginning of each class can be (**scanned and**) **emailed to me after class**, and I will post them on Blackboard. You can view these class notes under the folder “Student Class Notes” on Blackboard.

4.2 Practice Exercises & Graded Homework

4.2.1 Practice exercises

Practice exercises are those that I assign at the end of lecture which are to be taken up at the next tutorial. You may consult and discuss with other students about the answers to the practice exercises. You are **strongly** recommended to complete all of the practice exercises assigned. In addition to the practice exercises, there will be one or more question(s) assigned which are to be completed and turned in for grading (see below for information about deadlines, etc.).

4.2.2 Graded Homework: Guidelines

There will be nine small, weekly homework assignments (see Schedule for due dates). You may discuss these homework questions with your peers but answers must be written up individually (see powerpoint on Blackboard, “How to Avoid Plagiarizing Accidentally”). Note that instances of copying will be taken very seriously. You **must** write the name of the student(s) with whom you have discussed your assignment question(s) at the top of your assignment. If you have any questions about what you are allowed to do, please ask *before* completing your assignment.

In order to make grading more efficient, for the graded homework question(s) only there will be an assignment sheet posted on Blackboard and you must print this page(s) and complete your question(s) on the assignment page. This will be turned in for grading. Do not complete homework questions that are to be turned in for grading on your own paper, but use the assignment sheet posted on Blackboard. (Practice exercises that are taken up in tutorial you may complete on your own paper.)

4.2.3 Deadlines & Where to submit your homework

Homework can be submitted **during tutorial to your TA OR to the LIN232 assignment dropbox** up until **Friday at 12:00 noon** of the week the homework is assigned. **Do not hand in your homework to the Linguistics department office, or send me or your TA homework by email.** Under no circumstances should you hand in homework anywhere other than as specified above unless you have made other arrangements with me in advance of the due date and for a documented reason. This is to ensure assignments are not lost or go astray.

Late homework will not be accepted. If you anticipate not being able to turn in a homework assignment between Wednesday tutorial and the deadline Friday at noon, you may make arrangements with me **in advance** to hand your homework in **early**. Each homework assignment is worth either 2% or 3% (see schedule for specifics). Missed homework will be assigned a mark of zero unless you have an acceptable and documented (i.e. medical) reason for not submitting it. In these cases, the weight of that HW will be added to the **next** HW due, although the instructor reserves the right to make alternative arrangements. See Section 8 below for information on medical notes.

4.2.4 A note on scaffolding:

Practice exercises covered in tutorial are meant to support your learning and help you acquire the skills you will need in order to complete the graded homework question(s) each week. Typically, the graded homework questions will be more challenging than the practice questions: you should use the practice questions, which are not graded and will be taken up in tutorial, to practice and prepare for the graded question. For some questions, the graded question may explicitly build on or refer to the practice questions assigned.

4.3 Quizzes, Midterm, and Final Exam

Note there will be two quizzes, worth 5% each, in tutorial (Sept 24 and Nov 19), a midterm test worth 25% on Oct 20 in class, and a final exam, worth 35%, during the exam period (Dec 8 - 19). There are no planned make-up tests, quizzes or exams. Missed tests or quizzes will be assigned a mark of zero unless you have an acceptable and documented (i.e. medical) reason for absence. If this is the case, and you miss either of the quizzes, there will be no make-up quiz and the percentage from the missed quiz will be moved to the midterm or final. However, the instructor reserves the right to make alternative arrangements at his/her discretion.

4.4 Help Labs

Help labs will be scheduled before the midterm and final exam. These help labs provide students with an opportunity to ask more questions, get more practice, and get extra assistance. They are not required, but you are recommended to attend, schedule permitting, if you want extra practice or need further clarification or help on concepts covered in lecture or tutorial. We will do our best to schedule them at times that work for most people.

5 Important Dates

- **Sept 8:** Classes begin.
- **Sept 21:** Last day to add/change courses with F & Y section codes.
- **Oct 10:** December Exam Timetable released by Arts & Science
- **Nov 3:** Last day to drop course from academic record and GPA without academic penalty. Last day to add or remove a CR/NCR option for F section code courses.
- **Dec 2:** Deadline to request Late Withdrawal from F section code courses at College Registrar's Office. All term work in F section code courses must be submitted by this date.
- **Dec 3:** Makeup Monday class (Last day of class).
- **Dec 8-19:** Final Exam Period. There will be a final exam during this week.

6 Schedule

Course schedule is below. Note that topics of lectures/tutorials may shift somewhat during the course of the term, depending on how quickly we progress.

7 Communication

7.1 Email

All email correspondence must be sent from a University of Toronto email address. The subject line should begin with "LIN232" and the body of the message should include your full name and your student number. Email should mainly be used for administrative purposes. If you have questions about the content of the course, you should ask them (1) in lecture, (2) during tutorial, (3) in my office hours, (4) in a help lab, or (5) post your question on the Discussion Board (see below).

Lecture Date	Lecture: M 7-9pm	Tutorial: W 4, 5, or 6pm
M Sept 8	Intro, Syntactic Categories <i>Reading: Chapters 1, 2</i>	Practice Ch1-2
M Sept 15	Constituency, PSRs & Structural Relations <i>Reading: Chapters 3, 4</i>	Practice Ch3-4 HW1 Due (2%)
M Sept 22	Binding <i>Reading: Chapter 5</i>	QUIZ I: Chapters 1-(5) (5%) Practice Ch5; HW2 Due (2%)
M Sept 29	X-bar I: Introduction <i>Reading: Chapter 6</i>	Practice: Ch6; HW3 Due (2%)
M Oct 6	X-bar II: CP, DP, TP; Theta Theory <i>Reading: Chapters 7, 8</i>	Practice: Ch7-8 HW4 Due (2%)
M Oct 13	Thanksgiving: No Lecture <i>Reading for this week: Chapter 9</i>	Practice: Ch9 & Review Help Labs TBA
M Oct 20	Midterm Test: 7-9pm	No Tutorial
M Oct 27	Head Movement <i>Reading: Chapter 10</i>	Practice: Ch10 HW5 Due (2%)
M Nov 3	DP Movement, WH-movement I <i>Reading: Chapters 11, 12 (first half)</i>	Practice Ch11,12(first half) HW6 Due (3%)
M Nov 10	Wh-Movement II, Expanded VPs <i>Reading: Chapters 12 (second half), 14</i>	Practice Ch12,14 HW7 Due (3%)
M Nov 17	Fall Break (Monday & Tuesday): No Lecture	QUIZ II (5%) Topic TBA
M Nov 24	Raising & Control <i>Reading: Chapter 15</i>	Practice: Ch.15 HW8 Due (2%)
M Dec 1	Non-configurational Languages, Polysynthesis, & Incorporation <i>Reading: Chapter 18</i>	N/A (Lecture W Dec 3 instead)
W Dec 3	Intro Minimalism <i>Reading: Chapter 13, assigned readings</i>	N/A HW9 Due in Lecture (2%)

If you email me a content question, I may recommend that you post your question on the Discussion Board. I will rarely respond to a question about content over email. However, if you post your question on the discussion board, I may respond there in writing, *or* I may take up the question, if I think it would be useful, in the next lecture. Please do not email the course TAs.

Note: I will usually respond to email within 48 hours, but I may be slower to respond to email if travelling (to and from conferences, etc.). I will inform you in advance of these dates.

7.2 Blackboard

This course uses Blackboard/Portal. To access announcements, lecture notes/slides, homework assignments, student class notes, and view your grades, etc., log in at portal.utoronto.ca with your UTORid and

password. Please ensure that your e-mail address is updated and correct on ROSI so that you receive all course-related announcements. You are responsible for the content of these announcements.

7.3 Discussion Board

We will make use of a moderated Discussion Board on Blackboard for this course. Your participation on the Discussion Board may be taken into consideration in the assigning of participation marks. Note that the Discussion Board may be closed on certain days, depending on availability of the instructor. If I think a question asked on the Discussion Board requires a particularly extensive or detailed answer, I may bring it up and answer it during the next lecture (or tutorial).

Use the Discussion Board for the following purposes:

- Asking clarification questions about course content, lecture content, readings, or questions aimed at clarifying the questions being asked for the (graded) homework assignments.
- You may discuss with peers the answers to the practice problems in the Workbook using the Discussion Board, or answers to questions assigned as *practice* only (not the questions submitted for grading).
- Asking for confirmation of deadlines, course schedules (though you should consult the syllabus first).

Do not use the Discussion Board for the following purposes:

- Do not post answers, or discuss answers, to homework problems that are going to be submitted for marks (if this sort of activity occurs, the Discussion Board will be shut down).
- Do not discuss past exams on the Discussion Board.

All posts you make on the Discussion Board should be polite and respectful. Misuse of the Board may result in its use being terminated for this course.

8 Medical Certificates

Students who miss completing work (tests, quizzes, homework) will be assigned a mark of zero unless they can provide appropriate medical documentation. In case of illness, you must provide me with a **Verification of Student Illness or Injury** form, completed by U of T Health Service or your family physician.

Please note that as indicated on the U of T Health Services website: “Mild colds, non-acute diarrhoea and/or vomiting, headaches, menstrual cramps, insomnia or other non-acute problems may benefit from medical advice and/or treatment, but may not warrant a certificate. Non-medical issues, such as a death in the family, should be addressed through your college (if A&S) or faculty registrar.”

Note also that an illness verification form will not automatically result in alternative arrangements. The physician’s report must establish that you were examined and diagnosed at the time of illness, not after the fact. I will not accept a statement that merely confirms a report of illness made by a student and documented by the physician. If I feel that your condition was not serious enough to miss a test/quiz/assignment you will receive a mark of zero. Furthermore, I will contact physicians to confirm that certificates are genuine and warranted. All suspicious medical certificates will be forwarded to the Office of Student Academic Integrity.

9 Academic Integrity

Students are expected to understand university policy on academic dishonesty, and to be familiar with the MLA guidelines on plagiarism. All the evaluations in this course are based on individual work. Cheating, plagiarism, or representing other people's work as your own will severely affect your academic standing. Note that the homework assignments are bundled together so that any cheating (e.g., copying, allowing someone else to see your work, etc.) on one assignment will affect the entire homework component of your grade and may result in more serious consequences being imposed by the university. All suspected cases of academic dishonesty will be forwarded to the Department of Linguistics and the Office of Student Academic Integrity. For information on what constitutes an academic offence, you can visit the following link: <http://www.utoronto.ca/academicintegrity/academicoffenses.html>. You might also consult the Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters at <http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm>. For information on "How Not to Plagiarize," please see <http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/using-sources>.

10 Grading Policy

The Department of Linguistics follows the University Assessment and Grading Practices Policy. For more information on this policy, see the document at the following link: <http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/Assets/Governing+Council+Digital+Assets/Policies/PDF/grading.pdf>

Any regrading requests will need to be submitted with a completed "Regrading Request" Form, available on Blackboard. Work done in pencil or erasable ink cannot be submitted for regrading.

11 Learning Resources & Academic Support

Below are some links that you might find helpful in supporting your learning in this course.

Academic Success Centre: "The Academic Success Centre is dedicated to making sure you achieve your highest possible learning potential. [...] We invite students from across the university community to make use of our services." Website: <http://asc.utoronto.ca>.

Accessibility: The University of Toronto is committed to accessibility. If you require accommodations or have any accessibility concerns, please visit <http://studentlife.utoronto.ca/accessibility> as soon as possible.

Writing Support: If you would like more information about resources to support your academic writing skills, visit the following webpage: <http://www.writing.utoronto.ca>. Additionally, you can book an appointment to visit a Writing Centre on campus. For information on Writing Centres, visit the following link: <http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/writing-centres>.

Tutoring: The Linguistics Graduate Course Union, or LGCU (the Union of graduate students in the Department of Linguistics), offers tutoring services at a rate of \$25/hour. Tutors are graduate students in the department (who are not the current TA(s) of the course). Tutoring services are not guaranteed, as they depend on there being graduate students interested in being a tutor. For more information on tutoring, visit the following link: <http://linguistics.utoronto.ca/undergraduate/tutoring.html>.

Tutors will not provide answers to assigned homework. Disclaimer: Please note that tutors are not individually approved or endorsed by the course instructor or the department.

Enjoy the course!