

LIN232H1S—Syntactic Patterns in Language

Fall 2021—Prof K. Moulton

Updated: Sept. 14th

Professor: Dr. Keir Moulton

Office: SS 4077

Email: keir.moulton@utoronto.ca

Office hours: Thursday 12–2 (Zoom) and by appointment

Course webpage: Quercus

Course Piazza: <https://piazza.com/class/kt4k3y3v64m3j9?cid=6>.

Access code: SuccessiveCyclicMovement

For at least the first two weeks (Sept 15 and Sept 22) the lecture will be held synchronously online on Zoom at <https://utoronto.zoom.us/j/85387728861>. Passcode: 402397. Zoom lectures will be recorded.

Information about tutorials will be provided in the Announcements very soon! Thank you for your patience!

Office hours

I will hold my regular office hours (Thursday 12–2) on Zoom:

<https://utoronto.zoom.us/j/7051966332?pwd=M2wxTVBBR1hPcXd2UmJBVdxaVZCQT09>.

I am available for appointments by Zoom as well.

Teaching Assistants and tutorials

Tutorial	Day Time	TA	Location	Zoom link (at least Weeks 1 and 2)
TUT0101	Monday 9–10am		SS 2111	TBA thank you for your patience!
TUT0201	Monday 1–2pm		BL 112	TBA thank you for your patience!
TUT0301	Monday 2–3pm		SS 2111	TBA thank you for your patience!
TUT0401	Monday 3–4pm		EM 108	TBA thank you for your patience!

Course Description

This course is a basic introduction to syntactic analysis and argumentation in the generative framework. It covers word classes (parts of speech), constituency and X'-structures, and then moves on to principles that govern the derivation of phrases and sentence structures. We will examine a variety of syntactic dependencies: argument selection, modification/adjunction, raising, control, *wh*-movement as well as the motivation for and constraints on such dependencies. The theoretical concepts introduced in this course will be employed in the analysis of empirical data drawn not only from English but from a variety of languages.

Learning outcomes

At the end of this course, students will be able to analyze sentence and phrase structures, diagnose various syntactic relationships, understand the motivations behind key theoretical concepts in generative grammar, and will begin to make and test theoretical predictions with given or self-constructed data.

Required Text

Carnie, Andrew. 2021. *Syntax: A generative introduction*, **4th edition**. Wiley-Blackwell Publishing: Oxford.

- In addition to paperback, you can purchase a digital version of the textbook through UofT bookstore: <https://uoftbookstore.com/>

Piazza

We will be using Piazza for class discussion. The system is highly catered to getting you help fast and efficiently from classmates and me. Rather than emailing questions, I encourage you to post your questions on Piazza. Our class signup link: piazza.com/utoronto.ca/fall2021/lin232h1f. Access code: SuccessiveCyclicMovement

Lecture Notes

In addition to the textbook, this course also involves lecture notes, which will be posted online before each lecture (usually the night before). You are responsible for the contents of these as well. The lecture notes are not a replacement for coming to lecture (or watching in the case of recorded lectures).

Prerequisite

LIN102H1

Course components

Homework assignments (8×3%)	24%	(See schedule)
Research Participation	2%	
Quizzes (3×8%)	24%	(Oct. 7–10, Oct. 21–24, Dec. 2–5)
Midterm assessment	20%	Nov. 4–6
Final assessment	30%	Online during a 3-hour period determined by A&S between December 10–21

Homework assignments

- Homework assignments will be posted on Quercus on Sunday (at least) and due by the following Sunday 'soft deadline'. The following Wednesday is the 'hard deadline'.
- **Soft vs. hard deadline:** I know hard deadlines are difficult for us all right now. At the same time, I want to help you keep up on the content and we must be mindful of the time it takes us to grade assignments. Here's the deal:

- Soft deadline: if you submit by the soft deadline (Sunday), you will get your graded assignment back by the following Monday, which will be the tutorial in which you discuss the homework.
- Hard deadline: if you submit after the soft deadline but before the hard deadline (Wednesday), there is no penalty but: (i) the comments may be less extensive and (ii) we cannot ensure that you will receive the assignment back before it is discussed in tutorial.
- See 'Missed work' section below for assignments submitted after the hard deadline.
- Note that the homework assignments are worth very little in the overall scheme. Their purpose is to give you low-risk practice in preparation for the assessments.

Research participation

You have two options to earn your research participation grade.

- **Experiment participation** You can your total participation grade by taking part in a linguistics experiment (one experiment will earn you 2%). More information can be found on a page in Quercus filed under the Module Research Participation (Experiment participation opportunities).
- **Article Report** An alternative option is to write a summary of a recent research article in linguistics. Detailed instructions are on Quercus under the Module Research Participation (Instructions for Article Report). Note that **you must have me approve the article by October 15** to ensure that it is appropriate. You may not use this option if you do not get the article approved by October 15.

Quizzes, midterm and final assessments

- The quizzes, midterm and final assessments are cumulative, covering all of the course up to that point, but focus will be placed on material more recently covered.

Quizzes

- Quizzes will be completed online through Quercus during a three day window (See dates on schedule). Once you start you will have 30 minutes to complete the quiz.

Midterm assessment

- The midterm will be completed online through Quercus during a three day window. Once you start you will have 2 hours to complete it.

Final assessment

- The final will be an online, timed assessment during a 3-hour period determined by the faculty of Arts and Science between December 10-21.

WIT (Writing-Integrated Teaching)

LIN232 has been chosen for an Arts and Science initiative to provide support for student writing. You will not be graded differently than you would otherwise, but your grader will participate in special training to help mark your writing assignments. Later in the year you may be given the chance to take a survey or be part of a focus group to comment on your writing experience in the course. Students tell us that this initiative is an effective component of the course, and our statistics confirm that their writing improves measurably.

Communication

- Announcements will be made in the **Announcements** section of Quercus. Check there for important things. Make sure you have it set up so Announcements are forwarded to your utoronto email.
- Questions and discussion will occur on **Piazza** (see above and the link in Quercus).
- Email communication:
 - Email should be used primarily for administrative purposes, to schedule appointments, or to inform me of illness in the case of midterm/final. Questions about the content of the course are usually best raised in lecture, in Piazza, in office hours, or in a scheduled appointment.
 - All mail 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. Anonymous messages or messages sent from an account other than a University of Toronto email address will not be answered. **You must use your utoronto.ca email account in order to receive email messages regarding the course.**
- You may address me as “Keir”, “Professor Moulton” or “Dr. Moulton”, whichever you feel most comfortable with. I recommend that you write emails that conform to the conventions appropriate for a semi-formal setting—for instance, begin with a salutation (e.g. “Dear Dr. X”), use full sentences, etc.

Accommodations:

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. In particular, if you have a disability/health consideration that may require accommodations, please feel free to approach me and/or Accessibility Services at (416) 978 8060; accessibility@utoronto.ca.

Policies

The following sets out my expectations of student conduct in this course. Be sure to familiarize yourself with these expectations; I will hold you accountable to them.

Grading Policy: The Department of Linguistics follows the University Assessment and Grading Practices Policy: <http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/Assets/Governing+Council+Digital+>

Assets/Policies/PDF/grading.pdf. This course also follows the Department of Linguistics Grading policy:

<https://www.linguistics.utoronto.ca/undergraduate-programs/grading-policy>.

Re-evaluation of assignments If you would like to request a re-evaluation of a piece of work, contact Prof. Moulton within one week after the work has been returned. Along with the original work, please provide me with a written statement detailing the reasons you believe the evaluation is incorrect.

Missed work Students who miss an assessment for reasons beyond their control must contact me within one week of the missed assessment, submit a written request for special consideration explaining the reason for missing the test, and attach appropriate documentation: an Absence Declaration in ACORN, <https://www.acorn.utoronto.ca/> (which now substitutes the Verification of Student Illness or Injury form), a letter from their Registrar's office, or a letter from their Accessibility Advisor if applicable). The Professor will determine the course of action for missed work. Since the quizzes, midterm and final assessments are available over a period of several days, only in exceptional circumstances will a make-up be given.

Academic Integrity: While I don't expect to encounter instances of cheating in this class, you should be aware that I take academic integrity very seriously, and that there are significant consequences if you are caught cheating or engaging in academic misconduct. All academic work in this course must adhere to the Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters: <http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/AssetFactory.aspx?did=4871>. To highlight one important component of the Code, in written work, all sources used must be correctly cited, and if material is copied directly, appropriately cited and placed within quotation marks. Suspected cases of academic dishonesty will be forwarded to the Department of Linguistics and the Office of Student Academic Integrity. Link to the faculty's Academic Integrity website:

<https://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/current/academic-advising-and-support/student-academic-integrity>.

Collaborating: In this course, you are permitted to discuss course material with your fellow students on Piazza. However, you must complete the homework assignments (and of course the assessments) by yourself. Copying some or all of another student's work is plagiarism. If you copy your work from another student or permit another student to copy from you, you are committing an academic offence under the Code of Behaviour. Plagiarism is a serious offence that may result in a serious penalty, up to and including expulsion and prohibition from re-enrolment at U of T, and recording of the penalty on your transcript.

Writing support: At <https://www.writing.utoronto.ca> you will find links to resources to help you with academic writing, including credit and non-credit courses about writing and Writing Centres where you can get one-on-one help with your written assignments. One particularly useful document available there is "How Not to Plagiarize," which can be found here: <https://advice.writing.utoronto.ca/using-sources/how-not-to-plagiarize/>.

Especially for students whose first language is not English: Information about the English Language Learning program (ELL) is available here: <http://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/current/advising/ell>.

Classroom policies

- Students will be respectful of other students and the instructors, both in-person and online. This includes also only contributing relevant information in Zoom and Piazza.
- When we're on zoom, I ask that when you can do and feel comfortable, to keep video on. Not everyone needs their video on all the time, but it really helps me to see a few faces nodding along. I also like to see you :)

Schedule

Wk	Date	Tutorial activity	Lecture Topic/Reading (Chapter in Carnie)	Assessment (days available on Quercus)	HW soft deadline (Sunday)
1	Sept. 15	No tutorial Sept. 13	Intro. and categories (Ch 1,2)		HW 1 due
2	Sept. 20/22	Practice exercises	Constituency (Ch 3)		HW 2 due
3	Sept. 27/29	Review HW 1	X-bar (Ch 6)		
4	Oct. 4/6	Review HW 2	Our Grammar (Ch 7,8)	Quiz 1: Oct. 7-10	HW 3 due
5	Oct. 13	No tutorial Oct. 11	Functional categories (Ch 9)		HW 4 due
6	Oct. 18/20	Review HW 3	Verb movement (Ch 10)	Quiz 2: Oct. 21-24	HW 5 due
7	Oct. 25/27	Review HW 4	Overflow (1hr)		
8	Nov. 1/3	Review HW 5	Review (1hr)	Midterm Nov. 3-6	
<p style="text-align: center;">Reading week Nov 8: Students' last day to drop F courses without academic penalty; at least one piece of graded work must be returned before this date.</p>					
9	Nov. 15/17	Practice exercises	DP movement (Ch 11)		HW 6 due
10	Nov. 22/24	Practice exercises	DP movement cont'd		HW 7 due
11	Dec. 29/1	Review HW 6	Wh movement (Ch 12)	Quiz 3: Dec. 2-5	HW 8 due
12	Dec. 6/8	Review HW 7	Wh-movement cont'd		
	Dec. 9 Make up tutorials	Review HW 8 and Quiz 3			
	Dec. 10-21	Final assessment (timed, online); date TBD			