

LINB06 Syntax I

Summer 2021

University of Toronto Scarborough

Instructor: Dr. Curt Anderson (he/him/his)
Email: curt.anderson@utoronto.ca
Course webpage: Quercus (<http://q.utoronto.ca>)
Class time: online synchronous, Tuesdays 12:00 to 14:00
Classroom: Zoom (link on Quercus)
Office hours: office hours on Zoom, Wednesdays 17:00 to 18:00;
and also by appointment (please email me)
Grader: Emilia Melara (emilia.melara@mail.utoronto.ca) (they/them)

1 Course Overview

In this course, we'll look at the principles underlying how languages construct sentences, and how these principles determine whether particular sentences are possible or impossible, and possible dimensions for syntactic variation between languages. To do this, we'll look at judgement data from English, French, and other languages in order to make and test scientific hypotheses regarding the nature of syntax, the ability of speakers to structure more basic words and morphemes into larger linguistic units. Along the way, we'll gain a better understanding of what it means to treat linguistics as a science, get practice in making linguistic arguments, and pick up tools for the analysis of syntax across human languages.

2 Relation to Other Courses

Prerequisite: LINA01H3
Exclusion: LIN232H
Breadth Requirements: History, Philosophy & Cultural Studies

3 Textbook and Readings

For this course, you will need the following textbook. Copies are available at the campus bookstore, and it can also be found online at the usual places.

- Carnie, Andrew. 2013. *Syntax: A generative introduction* (3rd edition). Wiley-Blackwell.

Note that this is the third edition of the textbook. Be warned that other editions of the textbook are different in both content and organization, and might not be suitable replacements.

4 Requirements

The requirements for the course are as follows:

Assessment	Weight
6 homework assignments (PSets)	30% (each 5%)
5 short quizzes	10% (each 2%)
Midterm exam	25%
Final exam	35%

Grading scheme: The grading scheme used in this class is the standard UTSC grading scheme.

Due dates: Assignments and quizzes are due Friday 23:59 in the week that they are due unless otherwise noted. In case of any inconsistencies (such as Quercus saying one due date and my slides saying another), the date on Quercus should be treated as the real due date. For those of you in other time zones, make sure you keep track of what the day and time is in Toronto.

Late assignments: In general, late assignments will not be accepted, except under special circumstances. Please talk to me as soon as possible so that we can figure out the next step and get you back on track in the course with a minimum of delay.

Formatting of assignments: Your assignments should be formatted to be neat and professional looking. This means that it should be clear which question is being answered, and where answers begin and end. I encourage you to use my formatting of the assignment as a template, if you're able to. Assignments that are particularly challenging to read or grade may get points deducted.

5 Course Policies

Email: Make sure you check your University of Toronto email regularly. Class announcements will be sent to your university email address. In the "subject" line of emails to me, put the course number plus a short descriptor of what the email is about (e.g. LINB06 Question about c-command), and sign off with your full name at the end of the email. There's a lot of students in this class, and these two things will help me stay organized with this course and get a reply back to you faster. I check my email regularly, but if I don't get back to you within 36 hours (excluding weekends or holidays), feel free to send a reminder.

Recording of lectures: Synchronous class sessions will be recorded and posted on Quercus with minimal editing, so that students who are not able to attend the session can view the lecture. Please do not share these recorded lectures with people not participating in the course. At the end of the term, these recordings will be deleted, in order to preserve the privacy of any students who asked questions during these lectures.

Preference on names and pronouns: If you want me to refer to you with a particular name or pronouns, please let me know at a time that works best for you. If I make a mistake, please don't hesitate to correct me in a way that's non-confrontational and respectful.

Cameras optional: It's up to you whether you want to turn your camera on. There are many reasons why you might not want to turn on your camera, some potentially very personal, and so you're under no obligation to turn your camera on during our synchronous class periods, my office hours, or private meetings with me.

Office hours: My office hours (drop-in appointment times) are at the top of this syllabus. You can find the link to the Zoom room on the Quercus site. Occasionally, there may be other students ahead of you in line for my office hours, and so please wait patiently in the Zoom waiting room until I let you in. I'm happy to use the chat box in Zoom rather than or in addition to video/voice, if you prefer that. If you can't make my office hours, it's also possible to schedule an appointment with me via email.

Accessibility: 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 the AccessAbility Services Office as soon as possible. AccessAbility Services staff (located in Rm AA142, Arts and Administration Building) are available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals and arrange appropriate accommodations 416-287-7560 or email abil-

ity@utsc.utoronto.ca. The sooner you let us know your needs the quicker we can assist you in achieving your learning goals in this course.

Academic misconduct: The University treats cases of cheating and plagiarism very seriously. The University of Toronto's Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters¹ outlines the behaviours that constitute academic dishonesty and the processes for addressing academic offences. Potential offences include using someone else's ideas or words without appropriate acknowledgement, submitting your own work in more than one course without the permission of the instructor, making up sources or facts, obtaining or providing unauthorized assistance on any assignment (including via group chats), using or possessing unauthorized aids, looking at someone else's answers during an exam or test, misrepresenting your identity, or falsifying or altering any documentation required by the University, including (but not limited to) doctors notes.

¹<http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm>

6 Schedule

Here is a tentative overview of the course.

Week	Date	Topic	Due
Week 1	05.11	Introduction, syllabus discussion Chapter 1: Generative Grammar (optional) Chapter 2: Parts of speech	
Week 2	05.18	Chapter 3: Constituency and phrase structure rules	
Week 3	05.25	Chapter 6: X-bar Theory	PSet1
Week 4	06.01	Chapter 7: Extending X-bar theory to functional categories	PSet2
Week 5	06.08	Chapter 7: Extending X-bar theory to functional categories	
Week 6	06.15	Chapter 8: Constraining X-bar: Theta-theory	PSet3
—	06.22	Reading week (no class)	
Week 7	06.29	Midterm (no class)	Midterm
Week 8	07.06	Chapter 5: Binding Theory	
Week 9	07.13	Chapter 10: Head-to-head movement	PSet4
Week 10	07.20	Chapter 11: DP Movement	
Week 11	07.27	Chapter 12: <i>Wh</i> -movement	PSet5
Week 12	08.03	Chapter 12: <i>Wh</i> -movement Conclusion	PSet6
—	tbd	Final exam date to be determined by registrar	Final