

LING 311: Syntax (Fall 2021) CRN: TBA

Time and place: MWR 3:30-4:20 p.m., TBA
Instructor: Dr. Martha McGinnis
Contact: mjmcginn@uvic.ca
Office hours: Wednesdays 11:30-12:20 p.m., and by appointment
TAs: TBA

In this course, you will learn about syntactic analysis and argumentation within the Minimalist linguistic theory. You will explore fundamental empirical findings and theoretical analyses, apply theoretical tools to new data, and develop your problem-solving, tree-drawing, argumentation, research, and writing skills.

Prerequisite: LING 203

Textbook: Carnie, Andrew. 2013. *Syntax: a generative introduction*, 4th edition. Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell.

Dates	Topic	Prepare
Sep. 8-13	Basics	chs. 1-2
Sep. 15-22*	Constituency	ch. 3
Sep. 23-29	Syntactic relations	ch. 4
Sep. 30	Binding theory	ch. 5
Oct. 4-18	X-bar theory	ch. 6
Oct. 11	<i>Thanksgiving—no class</i>	
Oct. 20	<i>Midterm</i>	
Oct. 21-27	Functional categories	ch. 7
Oct. 28	Theta-theory	ch. 8
Nov. 1-4	C-selection	ch. 9
Nov. 8-15	Head-movement	ch. 10
Nov. 10-12	<i>Reading break—no class</i>	
Nov. 18-22	DP-movement	ch. 11
Nov. 25-Dec. 1	Wh-movement	ch. 12
Dec. 2	Review	

**Sep. 21: drop date; Sep. 24: add date; Oct. 31: last day to drop Fall courses*

Assignments

Problem sets (8 x 5%)	40%	Sep. 15, 22, 29, Oct. 6, 27, Nov. 3, 17, 24
Midterm	15%	Oct. 20
Syntax report	15%	Dec. 2 (research an aspect of syntax in a non-English language)
Final exam	30%	Final exam period (Dec. 6–20)

Questions?

For questions about the course, please ask me, or ask a TA during your tutorial. Complex questions are easier to answer in person—for example, in class, tutorial, office hours, or an appointment. For questions about the Linguistics programs, please contact the Undergraduate Advisor (TBA). Another good resource is UnderLings, the Undergraduate Linguistics Students Course Union (FB group: UnderLings - UVic Linguistics Course Union!).

Attendance and deadlines

It is best to attend class if possible, since this is the best way to learn. You will get more out of the class if you read the assigned chapters, and come ready to ask and answer questions about them. The assignments and exams will assume familiarity with the material discussed in class. You are welcome to discuss your assignments orally with classmates, but *you must include their names on your assignment, and you must write up your work entirely independently*. Homework assignments must be handed in as paper copies unless I agree to another arrangement ahead of time. Under no circumstances can an assignment be submitted electronically to a TA. An assignment will count as received when it is in my hands, and will count as late if it is handed in after the beginning of class on the day it is due. A late assignment will automatically lose 10% (i.e., a small percentage of your final grade) per week, or partial week, that it is late. If you have a valid reason for being unable to meet a deadline, you may request an extension before the deadline. Problem sets cannot be accepted after the answers are discussed in tutorial, usually a week after they are due. At my discretion, the weight of an excused assignment may be shifted to other assignments. The final exam will be cumulative.

Academic Integrity (*see the Academic Calendar*)

Violations of academic integrity involve submitting or presenting work in a course as if it were the student's own work done honestly and expressly for that particular course, when, in fact, it is not. Some examples of violations include the following:

- plagiarism, using others' ideas and/or words without following proper citation practices
- using the services of an editor (unless explicitly permitted)
- multiple submission of the same work for more than one academic requirement
- falsifying materials such as lab results, papers, or references
- cheating on assignments, tests, and examinations
- aiding others to do any of the above

Penalties for violating academic integrity include: failing the assignment, failing the course, disciplinary probation, or permanent suspension. Note that lectures, lecture slides, handouts, and exams are the intellectual property of the instructor, and must not be distributed without the instructor's permission.

Grading

Grades will be converted to percentages and rounded to the nearest whole number. Percentages correspond to letter grades as shown below. To pass the course, you must turn in and receive a grade for at least the following: (i) five problem sets, (ii) the syntax report, and (iii) the final exam. Otherwise an N grade will be assigned.

Letter	Percent	GPA	Comments
A+	90-100	9	<i>Work which is technically superior, shows mastery of the subject matter, and in the case of an A+, offers original insight and/or goes beyond course expectations. Normally achieved by a minority of students.</i>
A	85-89	8	
A-	80-84	7	
B+	77-79	6	<i>Work that indicates a good comprehension of the course material, a good command of the skills needed to work with the course material, and the student's full engagement with the course requirements and activities. A B+ represents a more complex understanding and/or application of the course material.</i>
B	73-76	5	
B-	70-72	4	
C+	65-69	3	<i>Work that indicates an adequate comprehension of the course material and the skills needed to work with the course material and that indicates the student has met the basic requirements for completing assigned work and/or participating in class activities.</i>
C	60-64	2	
D	50-59	1	<i>Work that indicates minimal command of the course materials and/or minimal participation in class activities that is worthy of course credit toward the degree.</i>
F	< 50	0	<i>Work which, after the completion of course requirements, is inadequate and unworthy of course credit towards the degree.</i>
N	< 50	0	<i>Did not write examination or complete course requirements by the end of term or session; no supplemental.</i>

Some useful links

Undergraduate Calendar: <https://www.uvic.ca/calendar/undergrad/index.php>

Academic accommodations: <https://www.uvic.ca/services/cal/programs/academic/index.php>

Academic concessions: <https://www.uvic.ca/registrar/students/appeals/acad-concession/index.php>