Syntax II Syllabus

Spring 2010 – LIN 381L – Unique # 41220
MWF 11:00am - 12:00pm JES A207A

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office hrs.: TBA

Course Description. This course will provide you with an understanding of the major syntactic phenomena, and the formal tools to analyze those phenomena and express theoretical claims. We will learn the framework of Lexical-Functional Grammar (LFG), a lexicalist theory of syntax with no transformations. The framework is based on the factoring of grammatical description into categorial structure (phrase structure and morphology) and functional structure (subject, object, etc.), based on the observation that grammars vary widely in the former but are similar in the latter.

Required Texts:


Note: The UT library has the electronic version of Dalrymple 2001.

Prerequisites: Graduate standing required. LIN 380L and LIN 380M or consent of instructor.

Requirements: (i) Readings; (ii) class attendance and participation; (iii) problem sets; (iv) final exam.

Grading: Problem sets 60%; final exam (Friday, May 14, 9:00–12:00 noon) 25%; class participation 15%.

Book feedback: I would appreciate any specific comments, positive or negative, regarding the Bresnan textbook. For example, let me know of anything in the book that you don't understand even after several readings!

Policy on academic honesty: You are encouraged to work together on the problem sets. However, the homework you hand in must represent your own thinking and your own understanding of the problem. On your homework you must list the names of the students you worked with. If you get help from someone who already took this course or audited it in a previous year then don't just copy their answers.

Course website: http://uts.cc.utexas.edu/~wechsler/Syntax2/
Preliminary schedule:

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic / Required readings due</th>
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| W 20 | **Introduction. Theoretical and empirical motivations.**  
     (Includes some material from Bresnan Ch. 1) |                |
| F 22 | **Nonconfigurationality; Movement paradoxes**  
     Read: Bresnan Part I, Chs. 1 and 2 (pp. 3-24) |                |
| M 25 | **Lexicality and argument structure.**  
     Read: Bresnan Ch. 3 | Questions on Chs. 1 & 2 |