

LING 3340: SYNTAX 1
Spring 2018

Instructor: Jeffrey Witzel

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Office Hours: Tuesday 2:30-3:30 (or by appointment)

TA Office Hours: Dan Amy: Monday 2:30-3:30 (Hammond Hall 121)
Kristen Fleckenstein: Wednesday 11-12 (Trimble Hall 217A)

Section Information: LING 3340-001

Time and Place of Class Meetings: Monday and Wednesday 1-2:20pm, COBA 138

Description of Course Content: This course introduces the fundamental goals and techniques of syntactic analysis from the perspective of Generative Grammar. It will help you to establish a theoretical foundation that you can use to examine more advanced topics related to the structure of human language and to conduct your own research.

Student Learning Outcomes: Upon successfully completing this course, students should be able to

- 1) demonstrate an understanding of theoretical concepts and analytical tools in syntax.
- 2) apply these concepts and tools to the analysis of a wide range of languages.
- 3) develop coherent arguments and provide empirical justification for theoretical claims.

Required Textbooks and Other Course Materials:

Carnie, A. (2016). *Syntax: A generative introduction. Third edition.* Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell.
ISBN: 9780470655313 (referred to below as *Carnie*).

Specific reading assignments from this text are listed below. You are also responsible for checking the Blackboard site for this class regularly to access class notes, handouts, updates, assignments, grades etc. (login at <https://elearn.uta.edu/>).

Descriptions of Major Assignments:

Problem Sets (55% of your overall grade): The primary work for this course will consist of 11 problem sets. These problems sets will typically be handed out on Wednesday, due the following Wednesday in class. (You will always be given at least a week to work on these problem sets). They will include fairly straightforward problems that ask you to apply techniques and concepts that we have dealt with in class as well as more challenging ones that ask you develop and support an analysis or argument. Your answers to these problems, and to the more challenging ones in particular, should be written in an essay-style structure and in logical, clear, and concise prose. These assignments should be typed and turned in at the beginning of the class on the day that they are due. Each assignment will be weighted equally in terms of how it will contribute to your final grade (each problem set = 5%).

You are encouraged to work together on these assignments. However, what you turn in must be your own work and written IN YOUR OWN WORDS. If you work with others on assignments, always identify your collaborators in your write-up. Working collaboratively on assignments practically guarantees greater success in this course (i.e., a better grade), and will also help establish a fun and collegial environment in the classroom.

Quizzes (20% of your overall grade): There will be two quizzes in this class – one on 2/7 and another on 3/21. These quizzes will primarily assess your ability to apply the concepts that we have learned in class to create constituent structure representations (i.e., tree structures) for English sentences. These quizzes will be “open note” (meaning that you can use (paper copies of) the notes that you have created for class during these quizzes). Each quiz will be weighted equally in terms of how it will contribute to your final grade (each quiz = 10%).

Final Exam (15% of your overall grade): There will be a final (cumulative) examination on 5/7. The format of this exam will resemble that of your homework assignments. Again, this exam will be “open note” (see above).

Participation (10% of your overall grade): Participation is required in this class. This includes, but is not limited to, attending each class meeting, contributing to class discussions, and working on in-class activities.

Grading: Your grade on each component of the class will be determined on the basis of the percentage of points earned to points possible: 100-90% = A, 89-80% = B, 79-70% = C, 69-60% = D, 59-0% = F. Your final grade will be determined in the same fashion but taking into account the weightings described above (repeated here for the sake of clarity).

Problem Sets (11):	55% (5% each)
Quizzes (2)	20% (10% each)
Final Exam:	15%
Participation:	10%

Students are expected to keep track of their performance throughout the semester and to seek guidance from available sources (including the TAs and the instructor) if their performance drops below satisfactory levels.

Late Submission of Assignments: Assignments are due on the day listed on the schedule, and no later, unless you make arrangements with the instructor prior to the due date. Late assignments may be accepted (at the instructor's discretion) but with a grade penalty. These assignments are unlikely to be returned to you in a timely manner, and they will not receive the same amount of feedback as an assignment handed in on time.

Attendance Policy: At The University of Texas at Arlington, taking attendance is not required but attendance is a critical indicator in student success. Each faculty member is free to develop his or her own methods of evaluating students' academic performance, which includes establishing course-specific policies on attendance. In this class, attendance is required. (See the *Participation* section above.) While UT Arlington does not require instructors to take attendance in their courses, the U.S. Department of Education requires that the University have a mechanism in place to mark when Federal Student Aid recipients “begin attendance in a course.” UT Arlington instructors will report when students begin attendance in a course as part of the final grading process. Specifically, when assigning a student a grade of F, faculty report the last date a student attended their class based on evidence such as a test, participation in a class project or presentation, or an engagement online via Blackboard. This date is reported to the Department of Education for federal financial aid recipients.

Drop Policy: Students may drop or swap (adding and dropping a class concurrently) classes through self-service in MyMav from the beginning of the registration period through the late registration period. After the late registration period, students must see their academic advisor to drop a class or withdraw. Undeclared students must see an advisor in the University Advising Center. Drops can continue through a point two-thirds of the way through the term or session. It is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw if they do not plan to attend after registering. **Students will not be automatically dropped for non-attendance.** Repayment of certain types of financial aid administered through the University may be required as the result of dropping classes or withdrawing. For more information, contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships (<http://web.uta.edu/aao/fao/>).

Disability Accommodations: UT Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of all federal equal opportunity legislation, including *The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)*, *The Americans with Disabilities Amendments Act (ADAAA)*, and *Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act*. All instructors at UT Arlington are required by law to provide “reasonable accommodations” to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of disability. Students are responsible for providing the instructor with official notification in the form of a **letter certified** by the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD). Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Students experiencing a range of conditions (Physical, Learning, Chronic Health, Mental Health, and Sensory) that may cause diminished academic performance or other barriers to learning may seek services and/or accommodations by contacting: **The Office for Students with Disabilities, (OSD)** www.uta.edu/disability or calling 817-272-3364. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at www.uta.edu/disability.

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) www.uta.edu/caps/ or calling 817-272-3671 is also available to all students to help increase their understanding of personal issues, address mental and behavioral health problems and make positive changes in their lives.

Non-Discrimination Policy: *The University of Texas at Arlington does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation, disabilities, genetic information, and/or veteran status in its educational programs or activities it operates. For more information, visit uta.edu/eos.*

Title IX Policy: The University of Texas at Arlington (“University”) is committed to maintaining a learning and working environment that is free from discrimination based on sex in accordance with Title IX of the Higher Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in educational programs or activities; Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VII), which prohibits sex discrimination in employment; and the Campus Sexual Violence Elimination Act (SaVE Act). Sexual misconduct is a form of sex discrimination and will not be tolerated. *For information regarding Title IX, visit www.uta.edu/titleIX or contact Ms. Jean Hood, Vice President and Title IX Coordinator at (817) 272-7091 or jmhood@uta.edu.*

Academic Integrity: Students enrolled all UT Arlington courses are expected to adhere to the UT Arlington Honor Code:

I pledge, on my honor, to uphold UT Arlington’s tradition of academic integrity, a tradition that values hard work and honest effort in the pursuit of academic excellence.

I promise that I will submit only work that I personally create or contribute to group collaborations, and I will appropriately reference any work from other sources. I will follow the highest standards of integrity and uphold the spirit of the Honor Code.

UT Arlington faculty members may employ the Honor Code in their courses by having students acknowledge the honor code as part of an examination or requiring students to incorporate the honor code into any work submitted. Per UT System *Regents’ Rule* 50101, §2.2, suspected violations of university’s standards for academic integrity (including the Honor Code) will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Violators will be disciplined in accordance with University policy, which may result in the student’s suspension or expulsion from the University. Additional information is available at <https://www.uta.edu/conduct/>.

Electronic Communication: UT Arlington has adopted MavMail as its official means to communicate with students about important deadlines and events, as well as to transact university-related business regarding financial aid, tuition, grades, graduation, etc. All students are assigned a MavMail account and are responsible for checking the inbox regularly. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, which remains active even after graduation. Information about activating and using MavMail is available at <http://www.uta.edu/oit/cs/email/mavmail.php>.

Campus Carry: Effective August 1, 2016, the Campus Carry law (Senate Bill 11) allows those licensed individuals to carry a concealed handgun in buildings on public university campuses, except in locations the University establishes as prohibited. Under the new law, openly carrying handguns is not allowed on college campuses. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/news/info/campus-carry/>

Student Feedback Survey: At the end of each term, students enrolled in face-to-face and online classes categorized as “lecture,” “seminar,” or “laboratory” are directed to complete an online Student Feedback Survey (SFS). Instructions on how to access the SFS for this course will be sent directly to each student through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. Each student’s feedback via the SFS database is aggregated with that of other students enrolled in the course. Students’ anonymity will be protected to the extent that the law allows. UT Arlington’s effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback is required by state law and aggregate results are posted online. Data from SFS is also used for faculty and program evaluations. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/sfs>.

Final Review Week: For semester-long courses, a period of five class days prior to the first day of final examinations in the long sessions shall be designated as Final Review Week. The purpose of this week is to allow students sufficient time to prepare for final examinations. During this week, there shall be no scheduled activities such as required field trips or performances; and no instructor shall assign any themes, research problems or exercises of similar scope that have a completion date during or following this week *unless specified in the class syllabus*. During Final Review Week, an instructor shall not give any examinations constituting 10% or more of the final grade, except makeup tests and laboratory examinations. In addition, no instructor shall give any portion of the final examination during Final Review Week. During this week, classes are held as scheduled. In addition, instructors are not required to limit content to topics that have been previously covered; they may introduce new concepts as appropriate.

Emergency Exit Procedures: Should we experience an emergency event that requires us to vacate the building, students should exit the room and move toward the nearest exit. When exiting the building during an emergency, one should never take an elevator but should use the stairwells. Faculty members and instructional staff will assist students in selecting the safest route for evacuation and will make arrangements to assist individuals with disabilities.

Student Support Services: UT Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. Resources include [tutoring](#), [major-based learning centers](#), developmental education, [advising and mentoring](#), personal counseling, and [federally funded programs](#). For individualized referrals, students may visit the reception desk at University College (Ransom Hall), call the Maverick Resource Hotline at 817-272-6107, send a message to resources@uta.edu, or view the information at <http://www.uta.edu/universitycollege/resources/index.php>.

The IDEAS Center (2nd Floor of Central Library) offers **FREE** tutoring to all students with a focus on transfer students, sophomores, veterans and others undergoing a transition to UT Arlington. Students can drop in, or check the schedule of available peer tutors at www.uta.edu/IDEAS, or call (817) 272-6593.

The English Writing Center (411LIBR): [Optional.] The Writing Center offers **FREE** tutoring in 15-, 30-, 45-, and 60-minute face-to-face and online sessions to all UTA students on any phase of their UTA coursework. Register and make appointments online at <https://uta.mywconline.com>. Classroom visits, workshops, and specialized services for graduate students and faculty are also available. Please see www.uta.edu/owl for detailed information on all our programs and services.

The Library’s 2nd floor Academic Plaza offers students a central hub of support services, including IDEAS Center, University Advising Services, Transfer UTA and various college/school advising hours. Services are available during the library’s hours of operation. <http://library.uta.edu/academic-plaza>

Librarian to Contact: Jody Bailey (jbailey@uta.edu)

Course Schedule

Class	Date	Topic(s)	Reading	Due Dates
Week 1b	17-Jan	Generative Grammar: The Basics	Carnie 1	
Week 2a	22-Jan	Parts of Speech	Carnie 2	
Week 2b	24-Jan	Parts of Speech	Carnie 2	
Week 3a	29-Jan	Constituency, Trees, and Rules	Carnie 3	
Week 3b	31-Jan	Constituency, Trees, and Rules	Carnie 3	Problem Set 1 due
Week 4a	5-Feb	Constituency, Trees, and Rules	Carnie 3	
Week 4b	7-Feb	QUIZ 1	Carnie 3	
Week 5a	12-Feb	Structural Relations	Carnie 4	
Week 5b	14-Feb	Structural Relations	Carnie 4	Problem Set 2 due
Week 6a	19-Feb	Binding Theory	Carnie 5	
Week 6b	21-Feb	Binding Theory	Carnie 5	Problem Set 3 due
Week 7a	26-Feb	X-bar Theory	Carnie 6	
Week 7b	28-Feb	X-bar Theory	Carnie 6	Problem Set 4 due
Week 8a	5-Mar	X-bar Theory and Functional Categories	Carnie 7	
Week 8b	7-Mar	X-bar Theory and Functional Categories	Carnie 7	Problem Set 5 due
Week 9a	12-Mar	Spring Break		
Week 9b	14-Mar	Spring Break		
Week 10a	19-Mar	X-bar Review		
Week 10b	21-Mar	QUIZ 2		
Week 11a	26-Mar	Constraining X-bar: Theta Theory	Carnie 8	
Week 11b	28-Mar	Constraining X-bar: Theta Theory	Carnie 8	Problem Set 6 due
Week 12a	2-Apr	Auxiliaries and Functional Categories	Carnie 9	
Week 12b	4-Apr	Auxiliaries and Functional Categories	Carnie 9	Problem Set 7 due
Week 13a	9-Apr	Head-to-Head Movement	Carnie 10	
Week 13b	11-Apr	Head-to-Head Movement	Carnie 10	Problem Set 8 due
Week 14a	16-Apr	DP Movement	Carnie 11	
Week 14b	18-Apr	DP Movement	Carnie 11	Problem Set 9 due
Week 15a	23-Apr	<i>Wh</i> -movement and Locality Constraints	Carnie 12	
Week 15b	25-Apr	<i>Wh</i> -movement and Locality Constraints	Carnie 12	Problem Set 10 due
Week 16a	30-Apr	Final Exam Review		
Week 16b	2-May	Final Exam Review		Problem Set 11 due

FINAL EXAM: 5/7 11:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Other important dates:

Census Date: 1/31

Last day to drop: 3/30

As the instructor for this course, I reserve the right to adjust this schedule in any way that serves the educational needs of the students enrolled in this class. –Jeffrey Witzel.