

Advanced Formal Syntax

Linguistics 5331

Spring 2018

General Information

Instructor: Joey Sabbagh

Email: sabbagh@uta.edu

Class Time & Location: T, Th, 3:30PM-4:50PM, TH 01

Office Hours: Monday 11AM-12PM or by appointment, Hammond Hall 126

Course Overview

This course is a continuation of Linguistics 5330 (Formal Syntax). Topics to be covered this semester include: (i) Properties of A and \bar{A} -movement compared; (ii) Unbounded dependencies; (iii) Anaphora (including Verb Phrase Ellipsis and Sluicing); and (iv) Covert Movement. In contrast to Linguistics 5330, the focus this semester will be on discussion and understanding of a range of syntactic phenomenon and contemporary debates concerning their analyses and theoretical implications, rather than — e.g. — developing a shared analytical framework.

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of the course, students will:

- Demonstrate ability to carry out syntactic analysis, both descriptively as well as analytically.
- Demonstrate ability to make and test predication based on their formal analyses of syntactic phenomenon, and therefore – more generally:
- Demonstrate ability to argue for a specific analysis of syntactic phenomenon, and against other (logically possible) analyses of the same phenomenon.
- Demonstrate ability to use the basic formal tools that form the basic foundation of the *Minimalist* approach to syntactic theorizing.

- Demonstrate ability to critically read and understand primary syntactic literature.
- Demonstrate ability to discover interesting syntactic problems on your own.
- Demonstrate ability to present your work to your peers, give and receive feedback, incorporate feedback in your written work.

Textbook

There is no textbook for this course. Rather, there will be a few readings throughout the course.

Course Requirements

- 3 Problems Sets. (30%, 10% each)
- 2 Squibs (20%, 10% each)
- Presentation of one of your squibs. (10%)
- A final term paper. (30%) [Draft Due by end of Week 13]
- Presentation of final term paper. (10%)

Grading

All requirements will receive narrative feedback and a letter grade. In calculating your final grade for the course, each letter grade you earn will be converted to a numerical value between 0 and 4 as follows: A = 4, A- = 3.5, B = 3, B- = 2.5, C = 2, C- = 1.5, D = 1, D- = 0.5 and F = 0. A grading rubric for the final paper and presentations, as well as the squibs will be handed out in class. At the end of the semester, grades will be averaged and weighed based on the percentages stipulated below to determine your final grades. Final grades will be assigned as follows: 100-90% = A, 89-79% = B, 78-68 % = C, 67-57% = D, 56-0% = F.

Course Schedule: Topics

Week 1 (1/16, 1/18): Typology of movement operations; *Wh*-Movement.

Assignment 1:

- Write a Squib (Due Thursday, January 24.)

- *Reading:* Pesetsky, David, 2013. “Phrase Movement and Its Discontents: Diseases and Diagnoses”, In *Diagnosing Syntax*, Cheng Lisa & N. Corver (eds.), Oxford Studies in Theoretical Linguistics.

Week 2 (1/23, 1/25): *Wh*-Movement (continued); Diagnosing Movement (Pesetsky 2013).

Week 3 (1/30, 2/1): Unbounded Movement, Issues and Controversies.

Assignment 2: Long Distance Movement in Chamorro (Due Thursday, Feb 8)

Week 4 (2/6, 2/8): Unbounded Movement (continued).

Assignment 3:

- Write a Squib (Due Thursday, Feb. 15)
- *Reading:* Gibson, Edward and T. Warren. 2004. “Reading-Time Evidence For Intermediate Linguistic Structure In Long-Distance Dependencies”. *Syntax*, Vol 7:1.

Week 5 (2/13, 2/15): Constraints on Unbounded Movement: Syntactic Islands.

- *Reading:* TBD.

Week 6 (2/20, 2/22): Syntactic Islands (continued).

Assignment 4:

- Assignment on VP Ellipsis (Due Thursday, March 8).
- Prepare for In class Presentation of Squibs

Week 7 (2/27): Misc. Topics

Week 8 (3/6, 3/8): In class Presentation of Squib (3/6); VP Ellipsis

- *Reading:* Johnson, Kyle. 2001. What VP ellipsis can do, what it can’t, but not why’. In *The handbook of contemporary syntactic theory*, Mark Baltin and Chris Collins (eds.) Blackwell Publishers, pp. 439-479.

Week 9 (3/13, 3/15): **Spring Break**

- *Reading:* Merchant, Jason. 2003. Sluicing. In Martin Everaert and Henk van Riemsdijk (eds.), *The Syntax Companion*, 269-289. Blackwell: London.

Week 10 (3/20, 3/22): Ellipsis Phenomenon: Sluicing and Fragments

Assignment 5:

- Assignment on Gapping.
- *Reading:* Phillips, Colin and D. Parker. 2014. The Psycholinguistics of Ellipsis. *Lingua* 151.

Week 11 (3/27, 3/29): Gapping, and Misc. on Ellipsis

Week 12 (4/3, 4/5): Covert Movement and “Logical Form”.

- *Reading:* Fox, Danny. 2003. On Logical Form, in Randall Hendrick’s *Minimalist Syntax*, Blackwell.

Week 13 (4/10, 4/12): Covert Movement Multiple *Wh*-Questions.

- *Reading:* Pesetsky, David. 2000. *Phrasal Movement and its Kin* (selected portions). MIT Press, Cambridge, MA.

Week 14 (4/17, 4/19): Backwards Control.

- *Reading:* Polinsky, Maria & E. Potsdam. 2002. Backwards Control. *Linguistic Inquiry*, Vol 32:2.
- *Reading:* Polinsky, Maria & E. Potsdam. Diagnosing Covert A Movement. In *Diagnosing Syntax*, Cheng Lisa & N. Corver (eds.), Oxford Studies in Theoretical Linguistics.

Week 15 (4/24, 4/26): Wrap Up and Final Presentations (4/26).

Week 16 (5/1, 5/3): Final Presentations.

Class Policies

The following “class policies” are intended to help foster a friendly and collegial environment in the classroom so that we can focus on learning. Please respect these policies throughout the semester.

Working together: You are encouraged and *expected* to work together on all assignments for this course, including the midterm and final exam. However, unless otherwise specified, what you turn in must be your own work. If you do work with others on assignments, always identify your collaborators on your write-up. Working collaboratively on assignments is practically a guarantee of greater success in this course (i.e. a better grade), and will also help establish a fun and collegial environment in the classroom.

Attendance & Late Assignments: Attendance is required. Since this is a small class, your absence will be noticed (and noted) even if attendance is not formally taken. If you miss more than 3 classes, you will likely not receive credit for participation. More importantly, since each class period will typically build on the previous one, *missing even one class can put you seriously behind*. If you absolutely must miss class, it is your responsibility to find out what you missed (what was discussed in class, if there was a hand out or assignment that was passed out, etc.). Because assignments will be discussed in class, typically on the day they are due, late assignments will generally not be accepted for credit after the due date. You may still turn in an assignment even if it is late if you desire feedback on your work.

Grade Related Matters: You should always feel free to discuss your grades and progress in this course with me. In fact, you should do so, early and often! If you earn a grade on an assignment that is less than you were expecting, you should also always feel free to discuss this issue with me. To do so, just schedule an appointment to visit me in person to review your assignment. Please do not wait until the end of the semester to discuss an assignment from a much earlier point in the semester.

Electronic Devices: To ensure the best possible classroom environment, cell-phones should be turned off and completely out of site. If you appear to be texting, you will be called on.

University Policies

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://www.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). 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. Counseling and Psychological Services, (CAPS) www.uta.edu/caps/ or calling 817-272-3671.

Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at www.uta.edu/disability or by calling the Office for Students with Disabilities at (817) 272-3364.

Title IX: 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. For information regarding Title IX, visit www.uta.edu/titleIX.

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 as they see fit in their courses, including (but not limited to) 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, Section 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.

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>.

Student Feedback Survey: At the end of each term, students enrolled in classes categorized as "lecture," "seminar," or "laboratory" shall be 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 enters the SFS database anonymously and is aggregated with that of other students enrolled in the course. UT Arlington's effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback is required by state law; students are strongly urged to participate. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/sfs>.

Final Review Week: 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.