

Linguistics 3340-001

Grammar & Morphology

Spring 2012
UT Arlington

COURSE INFORMATION

Instructor: Joey Sabbagh
Office: 126 Hammond Hall
Email: sabbagh@uta.edu

Class meeting time: T, Th 11:00AM-12:20PM
Location: Preston Hall 307
Office Hours: Wed 11-12, 2-3 or by appointment.

Teaching Assistant:

Darcey Browning
Email: darcey.browning@mavs.uta.edu
Office hours: TBA

COURSE OVERVIEW

This course is a survey of grammatical constructions and grammatical phenomenon found in language. It provides an introduction to some of the major concepts of morphology (the structure of words) and syntax (the structure of phrases and sentences) and provides a foundation for describing and analyzing grammatical structure for any human language.

The first half of this course will focus on the study of morphology and syntax from a mostly descriptive point of view. Here, we will be interested in looking at grammatical phenomenon in a variety of languages, placing particular emphasis on pointing out common cross-linguistic grammatical patterns. In the second half of the course, we will approach the study of language as an empirical science by introducing some basic concepts of Generative Grammar and applying them directly to the analysis of natural language. Here, we will attempt to develop an explicit and precise model of the rules and principles that speakers of a given language have about their language. The focus here will be mostly on English, but other languages will be looked at as well.

By the end of this course, you should (i) Be familiar with the core concepts of grammatical analysis that are in common use in the field of linguistics; (ii) Be able to analyze grammatical patterns in languages that are unfamiliar to you; (iii) Discover generalization in linguistic data and provide a formal analysis of them; and (iv) Be able to construction a *linguistic argument* (i.e. to determine what counts as evidence for or against a particular analysis of a grammatical phenomenon).

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- Approximately 6 assignments (70%).
- Final exam or research paper (15%).
- Short ungraded assignments and participation (15%).

Students will be expected to attend every class and participate actively, to complete assigned readings and come to class prepared, and to submit all written work by the assigned due date.

Grading: Each assignment and the final exam will receive a letter grade. The letter grade that you earn for each assignment will correspond to a numerical score 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. Hence, each individual assignment will be worth up to a total of 4 points. At the end of the semester, grades will be averaged and weighed based on the percentages stipulated above 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. The expectations for every assignment will be basically the same, and letter grade you receive will be based on how well you meet the expectations outlined in the rubric that will be handed out with your first assignment.

You should feel free to discuss your progress in the class with me at any time.

Ungraded assignments, as the name suggests, will not be graded. However, you must complete them to receive credit.

Textbook: The textbook for this course is *An Introduction to Syntax* by Robert D. Van Valin Jr. It is required.

Schedule for Assignments:

| | <i>Handed Out</i> | <i>Due Date</i> |
|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Assignment 1 | Tuesday, Feb. 5 | Tuesday, Feb. 12 |
| Assignment 2 | Tuesday, Feb. 19 | Tuesday, Feb. 26 |
| Assignment 3 | Tuesday, March 5 | Tuesday, March 19 |
| Assignment 4 | Tuesday, March 26 | Tuesday, April 2 |
| Assignment 5 | Tuesday, April 9 | Tuesday, April 16 |
| Assignment 6 | Tuesday, April 23 | Tuesday, April 30 |
| Final Exam | Tuesday, April 30 | Thursday, May 9 |

NOTE: Due dates for ungraded assignments will be announced in class. Typically, they will be due in the next class immediately following the class when they were assigned.

The Final Exam: The final exam will be a take home exam, which will have a structure very similar to the assignments (though it will be longer and more challenging). Instead of taking the final exam, students may choose to write an original research paper relating to a topic that is relevant to the course. Students who wish to take this option must have a topic approved (by me) no later than March 20, and must have a grade of A or B by this time. If you think you might be interested in this option, please talk to me early on in the semester.

COURSE OUTLINE & READINGS

Below is a numbered list giving the reading assignment for the course, and the topics covered in each (VV stands for the Van Valin textbook). This list is subject to change, depending on how quickly we move through the material. You will notice that I have not assigned specific dates for the readings or for the topics that will be covered: I will let you know in class which reading(s) you should be working on for each subsequent class or week in the class.

Introduction

1. **VV** (pp.1-6) / *What is Grammar? — Concepts of grammaticality — Aspects of syntactic structure*

Morphological Analysis

2. **VV** (pp. 6-17) / *Lexical Categories — Morphological analysis*

Semantic Roles

3. **VV** (pp. 21-33) / *Semantic roles — Thematic relations — Semantic macroroles — Links between semantic roles and grammatical relations*

Grammatical Relations

4. **VV** (pp. 33-40), (pp. 41-49), (pp. 49-56), (pp. 56-59), (pp. 59-67), (pp. 67-69), (pp. 70-73), (pp.73-79) / *Coding properties — Behavioral properties of the Subject — Raising and Control — Behavioral properties of the Direct Object — Behavioral properties of the Indirect Object — Philippine systems — Ergativity*

Generative Grammatical Analysis

5. **VV** (pp. 110-119), (pp. 156-162), (pp. 122-132), (pp.133-136 & pp. 133-136), (pp. 137-142) *Constituent structure — Phrase structure rules — The lexicon and subcategorization — Complements vs. adjuncts — \bar{X} -bar theory — Constituent structure and grammatical relations*
6. (Readings to be announced) *Transformations*

GENERAL CLASS POLICIES

Late Assignments: All assignments must be handed in in class on the date that they are due. If you know that you will not be able to turn in your assignment on time, you must make arrangements with me *at least 1 day prior* to the date when the homework is due. Any assignment that is turned in after I have already graded and returned the assignment will receive only partial credit, will not receive the same level of feedback as an assignment turned in on time, and may take a long time to be returned to you.

Collaboration: You may and are encouraged to work on all assignments, except for the final exam, with other students in the class. However, you must write up your answers on your own and in your own words (failure to do so will be considered academic dishonesty). Indicate who you worked with on your assignment, and attribute any ideas or specific proposals that you did not come up with on your own to your collaborator.

Attendance: Attendance is required. If you know in advance that you will miss a class, please notify me 1 day in advance of your absence. You are responsible for all material covered in class on the day that you are absent. If you miss more than 5 classes, your grade may be lowered by up to an entire letter grade.

Electronic Devices: Laptops should be used only for note taking. Cell phones and iPads and related devices must be turned off and out of sight. If you have urgent business to take care that requires use of these devices and that is not related to the class, leave the classroom.

Other 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. Contact the Financial Aid Office for more information.

Americans with Disabilities Act: The University of Texas at 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). 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 that disability. Any student requiring an accommodation for this course must provide the instructor with official documentation in the form of a letter certified by the staff in the Office for Students with Disabilities, University Hall 102. 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.

As a student, your responsibility rests with informing the instructor in writing or email and providing the official documentation from the Office for Students with Disabilities no later than the end of the second week of classes.

Academic Dishonesty: At The University of Texas at Arlington, academic dishonesty is a completely unacceptable mode of conduct and will not be tolerated in any form. Students involved in academic dishonesty will be disciplined in accordance with University regulations and procedures. Discipline may include suspension or expulsion from UTA.

According to the UT System Regents' Rules and Regulations, "Scholastic dishonesty" includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts" (Part One, Chapter VI, Section 3, Subsection 3.2, Subdivision 3.22).

While the Department of Linguistics and TESOL hopes to foster a sense of community in which students can enhance their educational experience by conferring with each other about the lectures, readings, and assignments, all work submitted must be the product of each student's own effort. Students are expected to know and honor the standards of academic integrity followed by American universities; ignorance of these standards is not an excuse for committing an act of academic dishonesty (including plagiarism). If you have questions, please speak with your instructor, your academic advisor, or the department chair.

Please be advised that departmental policy requires instructors to formally file charges with the Office of Student Conduct, following procedures laid out for faculty there

(<http://www.uta.edu/studentaffairs/conduct/faculty.html>), as well as notify the department chair of the filing of the charges.

Student Support Services Available: 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 www.uta.edu/resources.

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 a 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 students feedback enters the SFS database anonymously and is aggregated with that of other students enrolled in the course. UT Arlingtons 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 course 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.

Auditors: The Department of Linguistics and TESOL has a “no audit” policy, with one exception. With instructor permission, Department of Linguistics and TESOL faculty, staff, and students enrolled in a linguistics/TESOL degree program may be able to audit a course. Audited courses cannot be used to satisfy any degree or program requirements/electives, nor will any credit (including retroactive) be granted for audited courses.