



School of Linguistics and Applied Language Studies
Course Outline

LING 327 Syntax, Trimester 1, 2009

1. Course Coordinator:

Elizabeth Pearce
VZ 303
Ext. 5616
Office hour: see VZ 303 door notice
Email: elizabeth.pearce@vuw.ac.nz

2. Staff: as above

3. Class times and rooms:

Lectures: Mon, Wed, Thurs 2:10-3:00
in HM LT 001 Mon & Thurs and in HM LT 002 Wed
Tutorial: Monday 3:10-4:00 in MY 303

Tutorials commence in the second week (beginning 9 March). Do not miss your first tutorial.

The **tutorial programme** is an essential element of this course. Students will find they cannot acquire techniques of syntactic analysis without attending tutorials regularly.

4. Announcements:

Notices relating to the course will be posted on the Linguistics Notice Board next to VZ 309 on Floor 3 of the Von Zedlitz building.

5. LALS main office: VZ210, 2nd floor Von Zedlitz Building, Kelburn Parade

6. Course Administrator:

Vivien Trott, Undergraduate administration Tel: 463 5894, Fax: 463 5604
vivien.trott@vuw.ac.nz

Web contact: www.blackboard.vuw.ac.nz

7. Aims:

The course aims to develop the ability of students to apply methods of analysis and description of primary language data using the current theoretical framework based in X-bar syntax.

Whilst the perspectives will be both theoretical and empirical, a very strong emphasis will be placed on methods of argumentation and problem solving. In accordance with this emphasis, in-class work and assessment will focus on practical exercises and problem solving.

8. Learning Objectives:

At the end of this course, students should be able to

- understand the basic concepts of X-bar theory and how the theory is applied to the analysis of sentence data,
- apply the X-bar model in the analysis of sentence data from English and other languages,
- understand the role of tree structures, and be able to apply them, in the modelling of semantic relations between items in sentences,
- form conclusions based on the analysis of sentence data from the perspective of a formal framework.

9. Course Content:

A schedule of classes is attached at the end of this course outline.

10. Course delivery.

See under 3, 9 and 18.

11. Expected work load:

You are expected to spend 240 hours on this course over the whole trimester, which means on average around 17 hours per week. 4 of those hours are consumed with class attendance and at least another 4 with preparation for and revision after classes, including to confirm your understanding of the lecture material. You also need to spend time on assignments and on overall background reading.

12. Texts:

Every student will need to bring a copy of the **Coursebook** (obtainable from the Student Notes Distribution Centre, Student Union Building; cost \$11.76) **to all classes.**

There is **no single text book** with content that corresponds directly to the content of this course. The following books are, however, the **recommended textbooks** for this course:

- Carnie, Andrew. 2007. *Syntax: A Generative Introduction*. Second Edition. Oxford: Blackwell. Or: First Edition (2002).
- Cowper, Elizabeth A. 1992. *A Concise Introduction to Syntactic Theory*. Chicago & London: University of Chicago Press.
- Haegeman, Liliane. 1994. *Introduction to Government and Binding Theory*. 2nd Edition. Oxford: Blackwell. Or: First Edition (1991).
- Ouhalla, Jamal. 1999. *Introducing Transformational Grammar: From Principles and Parameters to Minimalism*. 2nd Edition. London: Arnold.

Detailed reading lists in the individual topic areas and other reading matter relating to particular topics are provided in the Coursebook. Other supplementary material supporting the content of the lectures may also be distributed in class. A large number of books and periodicals useful for this course have been placed on 3 day loan and closed reserve.

13. Materials and equipment:
not applicable

14. Assessment requirements:

Assessment will be based on the items listed below:

	<u>Handed out¹</u>	<u>Due date</u>	<u>Contribution to final grade</u>
i) Assignment 1A	2 March	18 March	10%
ii) Assignment 1B	2 March	23 March	15%
iii) Assignment 2	23 March	27 April	25%
iv) Assignment 3	27 April	15 May	25%
v) Assignment 4	15 May	5 June	25%

The Assignments which are due on a **Monday** (Assignment 1B, 23 March and Assignment 2, 27 April) must be handed in by **2pm** on the day due. All other Assignments must be handed by **4pm** on the day they are due.

Assignments should be handed in to the lecturer on the day the assignment is due or to the LALS Office (VZ 210). Please keep a back-up copy of your assignment.

Each Assignment includes one or more tasks in syntactic analysis based on data from English and/or other languages.

The maximum length for each Assignment (Assignments 1A and 1B count as one Assignment) is 12 A4 double spaced pages, including diagrams/figures/tables or 2,000 words.

Reasonable accommodation is made with respect to assessment procedures for students with disabilities (see also General University Policies below).

N.B. Note that if no work is submitted for assessment before the last two weeks of teaching, there will be nothing on which to base an aegrotat consideration.

¹ Copies of assignment material will also be placed on the LING 327 Blackboard site.

15. Penalties:

In line with the Linguistics Programme policy, assignments handed in after the due date will receive a considerably reduced grade unless accompanied by a medical certificate or other evidence of exceptional circumstances. If you require an extension for good reasons, ask the course coordinator ahead of the date for handing in the assignment. ONLY ASSIGNMENTS CARRYING A COVER-SHEET SIGNED BY THE COURSE COORDINATOR HAVE A VALID EXTENSION PERMITTED TO THEM. Such an extension may be given only up to the point at which the Assignments are handed back.

Assignments which are handed after the time and date on which they are due will be subject to a scale of penalties involving a reduction in the grade they are given, the severity of the grade reduction corresponding to the severity of the lateness. The details of the penalties will be set out on each Assignment.

You are strongly advised to begin work early on your assignment to be sure of getting access to the appropriate books and articles, to avoid last-minute rush, and to ensure that your work is not needlessly penalised. If your work is handed in late, it may also be returned to you late.

Plagiarism is not acceptable in assessed work, and will be penalized. The penalty will depend on the severity of the plagiarism (see General University Policies and Statutes at the end of this document).

If you encounter any problems in your work for this assignment, discuss these with the course coordinator well before the due date for the assignment.

16. Assessment and Course objectives

The **Assignments** will be asking students to demonstrate familiarity with basic concepts in syntax covered in the course and to demonstrate that they are able to apply the techniques of analysis which will be taught and practised in the lectures and tutorials up to the time of the "due dates" for these pieces of work.

17. Mandatory Course Requirements (Terms)

In addition to obtaining at least a C grade overall, students must meet the following mandatory requirements in order to pass this course:

You must make a satisfactory attempt at the five set pieces of in-term work listed under **13** above. "Satisfactory" means that where a set piece of work has not reached a C standard, it must nevertheless reflect the fact that the task has been taken seriously and that a reasonable amount of effort has been devoted to it. In order for an assignment to meet the Mandatory Course Requirements, it must be handed in no later than 12 June 2009. Note also that in addition to the penalties indicated in **12**, in order for an assignment to receive a mark, even if an extension is given, it must be handed in by the time that marked assignments are returned in class, normally not later than 10/14 days after the official due date.

18. Attendance

Tutorials form an essential part of all Linguistics courses and, crucially so, in LING 327 in which material covered in lectures and tutorials builds sequentially on

material covered in preceding classes. It is expected that students will prepare for and attend **all** of their scheduled tutorials.

19. General University Policies:

Students should familiarise themselves with the University's policies and statutes, particularly those regarding assessment and course of study requirements, and formal academic grievance procedures. Details can be found on the Blackboard site for LING 327, under the link "General University Policies".

20. Academic Integrity and Plagiarism:

Academic integrity means that university staff and students, in their teaching and learning are expected to treat others honestly, fairly and with respect at all times. It is not acceptable to mistreat academic, intellectual or creative work that has been done by other people by representing it as your own original work.

Academic integrity is important because it is the core value on which the University's learning, teaching and research activities are based. Victoria University's reputation for academic integrity adds value to your qualification.

The University defines plagiarism as presenting someone else's work as if it were your own, whether you mean to or not. 'Someone else's work' means anything that is not your own idea. Even if it is presented in your own style, you must acknowledge your sources fully and appropriately. This includes:

- Material from books, journals or any other printed source
- The work of other students or staff
- Information from the internet
- Software programs and other electronic material
- Designs and ideas
- The organisation or structuring of any such material

Find out more about plagiarism, how to avoid it and penalties, on the University's website: <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism.aspx>

7. Trimester dates:

March	Mon 2	FIRST TRIMESTER BEGINS
April	Fri 10	Good Friday. MIDTRIMESTER BREAK BEGINS
	MonTue 1314	Easter Monday and Tuesday, University holidays
	Mon 27	FIRST TRIMESTER RESUMES
June	Fri 5	FIRST TRIMESTER ENDS. Lectures cease
	Mon 8	Midyear study period begins
	Fri 12	Midyear examinations begin
July	Wed 1	Midyear examinations end
	Thur 2	MIDYEAR BREAK BEGINS

TIMETABLE OF CLASSES

LING 327 Syntax 2009

Lecture Schedule : Mon, Wed, Thurs 2:10-3:00 in HM 1

	LECTURES		ASSESSMENT
Mar	2	Review: Sentence meaning and organization	
	4	Review: Sentence meaning and organization	
	5	Subordinate clauses	
	9	Subordinate clauses	
	11	Subordinate clauses	
	12	Subordinate clauses	
	16	Noun phrases	
	18	Noun phrases	Assignment 1A
	19	Verb phrases	
		23	Lexical categories
	25	Functional categories	
	26	Functional categories	
	30	Functional categories	
Apr	1	Head-movement	
	2	Head-movement	
	6	Phrasal movement	
	8	Phrasal movement	
	9	Phrasal movement	
MID-COURSE BREAK			
	27	Argument roles	Assignment 2
	29	Argument positions	
	30	Argument raising	
May	4	VP-internal structure	
	6	VP-internal structure	
	7	VP-internal structure	
	11	Propositional logic	
	13	Quantification	
	14	Quantifier syntax	
	15		Assignment 3
	18	Logical Form and questions	
	20	Logical Form and movement	
	21	Aspect	
	25	Typologies	
	27	Typologies	
	28	Typologies	
Jun	1	QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY HOLIDAY	
	3	Binding theory	
	4	Binding Theory	
	5	End of 1/3 Teaching: 5 June	Assignment 4