LING 300.001: Studies in Grammar
2019 Winter Term 1

Course Description
This course focuses on description and syntactic analysis of data from a wide variety of natural languages. The discussion is couched in a generative framework, entertaining the universal grammar hypothesis. The topics we will cover include phrase structure rules, movement, dependencies, among others. The goal is to get a grasp of structural properties of individual languages as well as their similarities with other languages. Assuming that knowledge of syntax is a form of cognition, we will try to answer the following question – What do we know when we know the syntax of a language?

Learning outcomes:
By the end of this course, it is anticipated that the students will be able to:
- use a formal model to generate hypotheses about language.
- construct a theory, test it through hypotheses about the structure of language by using syntactic data, evaluate it and refine it.

Lectures:
Time: Tue, Thu 15:30 – 17:00
Location: Orchard Commons 3074

Instructor: Neda Todorović
Email: neda.todorovic@ubc.ca; ntodorov@mail.ubc.ca
Office: TFS
Office hours: Tuesday, 11:30 – 12:30

TAs and tutorials:
Tutorial: Check your schedule for time and location
TA office: 2354 Brock Hall Annex

1) Rose Underhill rose.underhill@ubc.ca
2) Herman Keupdjio hermann.keupdjio@ubc.ca
Course materials:


- **Website:** Canvas: [http://canvas.ubc.ca](http://canvas.ubc.ca) (for course content, assignments, exams, grades, and discussion)

- **PhpSyntax Tree** (web-based tree drawing software) (REQUIRED): [http://ironcreek.net/syntaxtree/](http://ironcreek.net/syntaxtree/)

- **Additional readings:** Additional material will be posted on Canvas during the semester.

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**Grading Policy and Course Requirements**

Semester grades will be based on:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester grades</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>Dates and deadlines</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Problem sets</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>Sept 27 Oct 11 Nov 1 Nov 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid-term Exam 1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Oct 15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final activity</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Nov, 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weekly Friday Tutorials</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>(based on participations)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Linguistics outside the classroom</td>
<td>5 (=2 LOC credits)</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100%</td>
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Additional remarks regarding grading:

PROBLEM SETS

- Problem sets will be related to the material discussed in class. They will be posted a week before they are due.
- How many? There will be 4 assignments throughout the course. Each is worth 10% of the final grade.
- Submission: via Canvas at 10:00 am on the due date.

NB! Late assignments will not be accepted.

- How to approach it? You may work together to arrive at answers for assignments, but each student must write up their own responses, and indicate which other students they worked with.

NB! Assignments that include identical answers will be treated as violations of the Honour Code.

*Honour Code.* Every assignment must include the following statement, plus your signature: “I have abided by the UBC code of academic integrity.” This statement indicates that you have abided by the code on all issues relating to that assignment.

- If you have a problem downloading an assignment or reading, contact with your TA or instructor immediately. In order to avoid technological problems, you should download assignments and readings ASAP. Students should retain a copy of all submitted assignments.

MIDTERM and Final EXAM

- These exams will consist of questions that build on class material and discussions in the tutorials. They will involve both questions about English and languages other than English. Midterm exam is worth 15% and final exam is worth 30% of the final grade.
- The exams may NOT be made up or rescheduled, barring emergencies or advance-notice agreement (at my discretion). Missed exams may be made up only in case of family or medical emergency (with a suitable note from a doctor). If you know in advance that you will have to miss the midterm, please let both your TA and the instructor know as early as possible.

MARK FOR ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION IN THE TUTORIALS

- Attendance at lectures and tutorials is required. Participation in activities in the tutorials counts towards the 10% of your final grade.
LINGUISTICS OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM (PARTICIPATION IN AN EXPERIMENT)

Participation in Linguistics Outside the Classroom (LOC) is required for this course. This is a means of increasing your involvement in learning about linguistics outside of regular classroom instruction. There are two ways of satisfying this requirement:

(1) Participate in 2 points worth of experiments being run by researchers in the Department of Linguistics. To sign up for experiments, please visit https://ubclinguistics.sona-systems.com to register and participate. Experiments typically take anywhere from 15 minutes to 1 hour and offer the opportunity to contribute to and learn about linguistics research first hand. Your participation in research is voluntary.

OR

(2) Attend one Linguistics research seminar or colloquium and write a one-paragraph summary of the talk, which you turn to your instructor within a week of attending. You can browse the talk series here: http://www.linguistics.ubc.ca/events.

You should complete your LOC participation before the end of classes, i.e. by November 29 at the latest. You are strongly advised to sign up for your experiment on the SONA system as early as possible. Make sure to fill in the correct course number (Ling 300) or your participation points will not be credited. Inability to complete the LOC requirement due to late scheduling on your part or filling in the wrong course number on SONA will not be accepted as a reason.

Fall 2019 LING 300.001 – Schedule

Notes:

➢ Any changes to the course schedule will be announced on Canvas.
➢ Additional readings and other source materials may be assigned. These will be available online on Canvas.
➢ The assigned materials for each week should be studied before Tuesday’s class.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Sept. 5</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>SKS 3.6 – 3.9</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Sept. 6</td>
<td>Tutorials</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Sept. 10 – 12</td>
<td>Phrase Structure</td>
<td>SKS 6.1 – 6.5</td>
<td>Problem Set 1</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sept. 13</td>
<td>Tutorials</td>
<td></td>
<td>Select: Final exam or Wikipedia project</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Sept. 17 – 19</td>
<td>Phrase Structure</td>
<td>SKS 6.6 – 6.11</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Sept. 20</td>
<td>Tutorials</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Sept. 24 – 26</td>
<td>Surface syntax: Binding</td>
<td>KS 7.1 – 7.9</td>
<td>Problem Set 1</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sept. 27</td>
<td>Tutorials (Select final activity: Final exam or Wikipedia project)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Select: Final exam or Wikipedia project</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Oct. 1 – 3</td>
<td>Abstract syntax 1: Selection</td>
<td>SKS 8.1 – 8.10</td>
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<td>Oct. 4</td>
<td>Tutorials</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Oct. 8 – 10</td>
<td>Abstract syntax 1: Selection</td>
<td>SKS 8.1 – 8.10</td>
<td>Problem Set 2</td>
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<td>Oct. 11</td>
<td>Tutorials</td>
<td></td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Oct. 15</td>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Oct. 17</td>
<td>Abstract syntax 2: Raising</td>
<td>SKS 8.5.2; 9.4;</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Oct. 18</td>
<td>Tutorials</td>
<td>12.8</td>
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<td>Oct. 25</td>
<td>Tutorials</td>
<td></td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Oct. 29 – 31</td>
<td>Abstract syntax 2: Raising and control</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Nov. 1</td>
<td>Tutorials</td>
<td>Problem Set 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Nov. 5 – 7</td>
<td>Structural constraints: Wh-questions</td>
<td>SKS 10.1 – 10.7</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Nov. 8</td>
<td>Tutorials</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Nov. 12 – 14</td>
<td>Structural constraints: Wh-questions</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Nov. 15</td>
<td>Tutorials</td>
<td>Problem Set 4</td>
<td></td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Nov. 19 – 21</td>
<td>Probing for structure 1: the tests</td>
<td>SKS 11.1 – 11.6</td>
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<td>Nov. 22</td>
<td>Tutorials</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Nov. 26 – 28</td>
<td>Probing for structure 2: connecting morphology to syntax</td>
<td>SKS 12.1 – 12.3; 12.4</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nov. 29</td>
<td>Tutorials</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>Oral presentations of Wikipedia projects</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>Complete final activity: Final take-home exam or Wikipedia project</td>
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Course Drop/Withdrawal Deadlines:
http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/vancouver/index.cfm?page=deadlines

Special Notes

Communication

Use Canvas’ discussion board to get your questions answered by your classmates. The discussion board is especially useful for getting quick answers to logistical questions.

You are encouraged to meet with a TA or the instructor during office hours if you have questions about course material. You may also email us with questions about organizational matters, or to set up an appointment outside of normal office hours.

With any email query, you should first contact your TA. We may not respond to email questions on short notice, for example, the day before the exam. Please plan accordingly.

Academic Misconduct and the Honour Code

The UBC policy on academic misconduct is in effect at all times in this class, both in letter and spirit. I will treat violations of it seriously. If you ever have questions about academic integrity or misconduct, or their application in this class, you should bring them to me.

In this course, you must include your handwritten signature on all exams and assignments, and a statement (“I have abided by the UBC code of academic integrity”), indicating that you have abided by the Honour Code. All work that you turn in is to be your original work. You may not turn in another person’s work as yours, and quoted material must be properly cited. You may not give or receive assistance to/from another person during exams or quizzes, nor receive information from any materials or means not authorized by the instructor. YOUR SIGNATURE OR STATEMENT ON YOUR WORK indicates that you have abided by the code of academic integrity on all issues relating to that assignment. Work without your signature or statement will receive a mark of 0 (zero), without exception.

Academic Misconduct that is subject to penalty includes, but is not limited to, the following:

1. PLAGIARISM. Plagiarism occurs where an individual submits or presents the work of another person as his or her own. Scholarship quite properly rests upon examining and referring to the thoughts and writings of others. However, when excerpts are used in paragraphs or essays, the author must be acknowledged in the text, through footnotes, in endnotes, or in other accepted forms of academic citation. Plagiarism extends from where there is no recognition given to the author for phrases, sentences, or ideas of the author
incorporated in an essay to where an entire essay is copied from an author, or composed by another person, and presented as original work. Students must ensure that when they seek assistance from a tutor or anyone else that the work they submit is actually their own. Where collaborative work is permitted by the instructor, students must ensure that they comply with the instructor’s requirements for such collaboration. Students are responsible for ensuring that any work submitted does not constitute plagiarism. Students who are in any doubt as to what constitutes plagiarism should consult their instructor before handing in any assignments.

2. CHEATING. Cheating includes, but is not limited to: falsifying any material subject to academic evaluation; having in an examination any materials other than those permitted by the examiner; and using unauthorized means to complete an examination (e.g. receiving unauthorized assistance from a fellow student).

3. SUBMITTING THE SAME, or substantially the same, essay, presentation, or assignment more than once (whether the earlier submission was at this or another institution), unless prior approval has been obtained from the instructor(s) to whom the assignment is to be submitted.

**NB:** Using someone else’s clicker, or allowing someone else to use yours, is Academic Misconduct.

***For more information (including info about disciplinary measures) see the University Calendar:
http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/vancouver/index.cfm?tree=3.286.0.0

Violations of the Honour Code may result in disciplinary action, including a failing grade for the course, suspension from scholarships, or expulsion from the University.

*Take this seriously and abide by this code of conduct. Remember to put your signature and statement on your work.*

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**Student Accommodations**

The University accommodates students (1) with disabilities who have registered with Access and Diversity, and (2) whose religious obligations conflict with attendance, submitting assignments, or completing scheduled tests and examinations. **Let me know in the first week if you will require accommodation on these grounds.**

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**Illness and Absence:** If you experience medical, emotional, or personal problems that affect your attendance or academic performance, you should discuss this with Arts Academic Advising (or your home Faculty’s Advising Office). **I may require a note**
from Arts Academic Advising or a health care professional before I grant any accommodations (such as extending a due date). If you are registered with Access and Diversity, you should notify your instructor at least two weeks before examination dates. If you are planning to be absent for varsity athletics, family obligations, or other commitments, you should not assume that these will be accommodated, and you should discuss your situation with the instructor before the drop date.

Respectful Environment and Student Code of Conduct:

It is very important that we foster an environment that is respectful of all participants in the course, no matter what their background. Students, faculty, and staff should be aware of the UBC president’s Statement on Respectful Environment and related university policies. See this website for more information: [http://www.hr.ubc.ca/respectful-environment/](http://www.hr.ubc.ca/respectful-environment/)

All students are also bound by UBC’s Student Code of Conduct:


Wellbeing: Being a university student can sometimes be stressful. If you are experiencing any sort of personal, psychological, medical or financial difficulties, I strongly encourage you to seek help at an early stage. There are many resources for students available on campus. The following page is a very useful guide for a wide variety of services related to your wellbeing:

[http://students.ubc.ca/livewell](http://students.ubc.ca/livewell)

If someone you know is in distress, here is a place where you can find ways to help them:

[http://students.ubc.ca/livewell/concerned-about-student/how-help-other-students](http://students.ubc.ca/livewell/concerned-about-student/how-help-other-students)

Students must contact me/your TA via email as soon as you are aware you may need an in-term concession. I/They will adjudicate the request. Please include a Student Self-Declaration form, found on the [Arts Advising website](http://Arts.Advising.website). If you require a second concession, you must make your request to your Faculty Advising Office.
Other Policies

The use of all electronic equipment is strongly discouraged in class.* This includes laptops, e-readers and iPad-type devices, cellphones, iPod/mp3 players, etc.). See these two articles for the drawbacks of technology in the learning environment:


and


* Exception: if registered with Access and Diversity, students with special needs may need to record lectures or use a note-taker on a laptop. If that is you, come and see me this week so that you can be granted an exemption.

You are responsible for all material covered in class. Students who have missed class for any reason are responsible for finding out what information they have missed. Exams, assignments and tutorials will draw heavily on material covered in lectures.

You are responsible for information on the course Canvas sites and should check them regularly.

To get the best possible grade in this class, you should attend all lectures and tutorials (on time), and come prepared. Lectures are based on the assumption that you have already completed the reading. You will get more out of class time (and thus eventually get a better grade) if you do the reading and watch the online content when they are assigned.

I reserve the right to . . .

- expect compliance with these policies, and to grade accordingly.
- change the reading, assignment, or course schedule, as our speed requires.
- make announcements via Canvas/email and hold you accountable for that information.
- make the ultimate decision about late assignments, make-ups, rescheduled exams, etc.