

Syntax II

Lehrkraft: Dr. Julia Bacskai-Atkari

Leistungspunkte: 6

Semester: Wintersemester 2019

Zeit: Donnerstag 10.00–11.30

Ort: G305

Description

This course builds on the knowledge and analytical skills developed in Syntax I. We will explore many different constraints on sentence formation, and learn through problem-solving exercises and group discussion how to characterise these constraints in a precise and useful way. Though the course concentrates on English, other languages will be taken into consideration for comparative purposes as well. The classes will be taught in English.

Languages

- classes: English
- assignments: English or German
- end-term test: English
- contact: English or German (please choose the language you are more competent in, i.e. please write in German if your first language is German)

Literature

There is no set textbook for the course but students may find it useful to have access to the following books:

Larson, Richard K. 2010. *Grammar as science*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.

Tallerman, Maggie. 2015. *Understanding syntax*. 4th edition. London: Routledge.

There is one research article set for the reading assignment:

Myler, Neil. 2013. On *coming the pub* in the North West of England: Accusative unaccusatives, dependent case, and preposition incorporation. *The Journal of Comparative Germanic Linguistics* 16: 189–207.

Requirement: there are two options, see below.

Note that the end-term test gives less than 100% of the grade for the course: this also means that receiving a 5.0 for the test does not automatically result in failing the course. However, the end-term test **must** be taken: not taking the end-term test results in failing the course.

The final grade is given by two or three components. Depending on which option you choose, the final grade is calculated as follows:

- OPTION 1:
 - end-term test: 50%
 - mini-essay: 30%
 - reading assignment: 20%
- OPTION 2:
 - end-term test: 80%
 - reading assignment: 20%

Recommendation: Option 1

- Writing an essay is fun!
- It involves less risk than relying 80% on the result of the test.
- **You have nothing to lose:** in case you submit the mini-essay but the calculation according to Option 2 would give you a better grade than the one according to Option 1, you will automatically receive the better grade.

Below you find additional information on the individual requirements.

End-term test

- It **MUST** be taken, no matter you choose Option 1 or Option 2 above.
- Language: English
- Date: 13 February 2020, 10.00–11.30

Reading assignment

- It is based on the following article: Myler, Neil. 2013. On *coming the pub* in the North West of England: Accusative unaccusatives, dependent case, and preposition incorporation. *The Journal of Comparative Germanic Linguistics* 16: 189–207.
- Language: English or German
- Deadline: 11 December 2019, 10.00

Mini-essay

- Possible topics given in the relevant task sheet
- NO page limit (ideally it should be ca. 5–7 pages long)
- Language: English or German
- Deadline: 6 February 2020

Preliminary schedule:

| | |
|------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| 24.10.2019 | Introduction: Phrase structure |
| 31.10.2019 | The nominal expression I: English versus other languages |
| 07.11.2019 | The nominal expression II: The DP |
| 14.11.2019 | Verb phrases I: Revision |
| 21.11.2019 | Verb phrases II: Case |
| 28.11.2019 | The PP: P-drop |
| 05.12.2019 | Vertiefungswoche/Consolidation week: Revision of topics 1–6 |
| 12.12.2019 | Theta roles and word order |
| 19.12.2019 | The tense phrase I: Revision |
| 09.01.2020 | The tense phrase II: Agreement |
| 16.01.2020 | The tense phrase III: Passives |
| 23.01.2020 | The CP I: Revision |
| 30.01.2020 | The CP II: Interrogatives |
| 06.02.2020 | The CP III: Relative clauses |
| 13.02.2020 | TEST |