

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