

Syntax II

Lehrkraft: Dr. Dr. Julia Bacskai-Atkari

Leistungspunkte: 6

Semester: Wintersemester 2020

Zeit: Mittwoch 15.15–16.45

Ort: E402

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.

Requirement: there are four options, see below.

Note that the end-term test may give 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, in case other components with a valid grade have been taken. 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 the obligatory end-term test and other, optional components. Depending on which option you choose, the final grade is calculated as follows:

- OPTION 1:
 - end-term test: 60%
 - mini-essay: 30%
 - reading assignment: 10%
- OPTION 2:
 - end-term test: 70%
 - mini-essay: 30%
- OPTION 3:
 - end-term test: 90%
 - reading assignment: 10%
- OPTION 4:
 - end-term test: 100%

- OPTION 5:
 - end-term test: 30%
 - home paper: 60%
 - reading assignment: 10%
- OPTION 6:
 - end-term test: 30%
 - home paper: 70%

Notes:

- As for the optional readings assignment and the mini essay, **you have nothing to lose**: in case you submit the mini-essay and/or the reading assignment but the calculation according to another option not involving these components would give you a better grade, you will automatically receive the better grade.
- As for the home paper: a home paper that has been submitted will always be calculated: **there is no ungraded home paper**. However, you may choose not to submit the home paper even if you have registered for it; withdrawing the announcement for the home paper leads back to Option 3 or Option 4.

Below you find additional information on the individual requirements.

End-term test

- It **MUST** be taken, no matter which option you choose.
- Language: English
- Date: 10 February 2021, 15.15–16.45

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: 15 December 2020

Mini-essay

- Possible topics given in the relevant task sheet
- NO page limit (ideally it should be ca. 4–7 pages long)
- Language: English or German
- Deadline: 3 February 2021

Home paper

- Possible topics given in the relevant task sheet
- Length: at least 10 pages (ca. 4000–5000 words)
- Language: English or German
- Deadline: 31 March 2021
- Registration for the home paper: till 3 February 2021. Home papers that have been submitted will be graded. However, if you change your mind and decide not to submit a home paper after you have already announced it, there will be no negative consequences.

Preliminary schedule:

04.11.2020	Introduction: Phrase structure
11.11.2020	The nominal expression I: English versus other languages
18.11.2020	The nominal expression II: The DP
25.11.2020	Verb phrases I: Revision
02.12.2020	Verb phrases II: Case
09.12.2020	Vertiefungswoche/Consolidation week: Revision of topics 1–5
16.12.2020	Theta roles and word order
23.12.2020	The tense phrase I: Agreement
13.01.2021	The tense phrase II: Passives
20.01.2021	The CP I: Revision
27.01.2021	The CP II: Interrogatives
03.02.2021	The CP III: Relative clauses
10.02.2021	TEST