

Syntax 1
LING 371 — Fall 2018
CRN: 24455
TThF 8:35–9:25, RPHYS 114

Instructor

	Junko Shimoyama
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<i>office hours</i>	TBA and by appointment

Teaching assistant

Jurij Bozic (jurij.bozic@mail.mcgill.ca)
Office hours (Starting Week 4): Thursday 15:00-16:00, Room 002, 1085 Dr. Penfield

Course objectives

This course aims to provide an introduction to the study of generative syntax of natural languages, emphasizing basic concepts and formalisms: phrases structure rules, transformations, and conditions on rules. Practical emphasis is on development of argumentation and theory construction.

Requirements and evaluation

5 Quizzes	10% (5 x 2%)
2 Problem sets	30% (2 x 15%)
Midterm exam	25%
Final exam	35%

Textbook and Workbook

–*Syntax: A Generative Introduction*, Third Edition, Andrew Carnie
–*The Syntax Workbook: A Companion to Carnie’s Syntax*, Andrew Carnie

- Note: Generative Syntax is relatively new (created in the mid-50’s) and the claims of the theory are constantly being tested, revised, and retested. There is no ‘truth’, just a stage of where we are today. The good news is that any beginning student can have theory changing insights. The bad news is that no textbook that has had the time to be published accurately represents the current state of this particular theoretical framework. Disagreements with the textbook will be noted in slides.

Course rules and procedures

Conferences

Starting Week 4, Friday sessions will be held as conferences run by a TA, to apply the methods that are learned through the readings and lectures. You are responsible for the material covered in conferences just as you are responsible for the material covered in lectures. Conferences will be held on Fridays as follows:

	Time	Location	TA
25228 002	F 8:35 – 9:25	RPHYS 114	Jurij Bozic
25229 003	F 10:35 – 11:25	SH688 495	Jurij Bozic

You must sign up for your conference session on Minerva. Once you have signed up for one section, you cannot switch to another. An effort will be made to divide the students evenly between sections. This means that once a section has a certain number of students, no more students will be accepted into that section.

Quizzes

There will be six short quizzes. The top five grades will count toward your final grade. A practice quiz is provided before each quiz. Quizzes 1 through 4 will be online quizzes on myCourses, and quizzes 5 and 6 will be given during the Friday conferences. These quizzes will include short questions or exercises to determine whether the basic material of the course is being understood.

Problem sets

There will be two problem sets. These will include some basic questions but will also include more difficult material and cross-linguistic applications of the tools being discussed in the lectures and the conference sessions. Late assignments will lose 5 points per day. No late submission is accepted once assignments are returned or answers are made available.

Practice problems

Each week before a conference, practice problems will be posted on myCourses – from the textbook and/or the workbook – to be completed before the conference. These problems are meant to focus the questions for the conference session and to provide practice for the quizzes.

Exams

The midterm and final exams will contain questions of the type seen in the quizzes, problem sets and practice problems (part multiple choice, part short answers, part problems). Some of the questions will require application of the tools you have learned.

The midterm exam is scheduled for: **Monday, October 22, from 18:05–19:55 (LEA 219)**

Course policy on the midterm exams and quizzes

Midterm conflict: Special arrangements will only be made for students who have a conflict with the midterm as scheduled. To be eligible, students must be registered in a conflicting course with a higher priority than LING 371, (namely, **BIOL 200**). In case you have a midterm conflict, **you must notify the instructor by the end of the add/drop period in writing (through email).**

No special arrangements will be made with the midterm exam or quizzes unless (i) we are notified within 24 hours of a missed midterm/quiz; and (ii) you provide appropriate documentation (e.g. a doctor's note) in order for makeup work to be approved. For (i), you may leave a message with the departmental secretary at (514) 398-4222, before contacting the instructor by email. No late quiz is given once quiz answers are made available. There will be no extra credit work or re-weighting of grades in this course.

Questions concerning grading

If you have any questions concerning grading on a problem set, quiz, or exam, please contact your TA first. Any questions must be reported within one week of receiving your grade.

Office hours and appointments

TA office hours are held every week, starting Week 4. If you are unable to meet with a TA during their office hours, you can ask for individual appointments and generally these can be arranged within one week of the request.

Tutors

If you feel that you need more individual attention, we encourage you to contact either the Student Tutorial Service (398-6011) or SLUM (the undergraduate linguistics student association: slum.linguistics@mail.mcgill.ca). It is understood that tutors help with the content of the course but do not help directly with assignments. Make sure that your tutor knows what is being covered in the course this term since the content can change from term to term.

Email

You can expect the instructor and TA to respond to your e-mail questions and comments (Email via myCourses; or in regular email, include “LING 371” in the subject line). However, please do not expect instant responses. We will try to respond within two working days (though we will be more vigilant closer to assignment due dates and exam times). Students often find the discussion board on myCourses helpful.

Copyright: Instructor-generated course materials

Instructor-generated course materials (e.g., slides, handouts, conference materials, assignments, quizzes, exam questions, answer keys, etc.) are protected by law and may not be copied or distributed in any form or in any medium without explicit permission of the instructor. Note that infringements of copyright can be subject to follow up by the University under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures (see www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest/ for more information).

Academic integrity

McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore, all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences under the code of student conduct and disciplinary procedures (see www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest/ for more information).

L'université McGill attache une haute importance à l'honnêteté académique. Il incombe par conséquent à tous les étudiants de comprendre ce que l'on entend par tricherie, plagiat et autres infractions académiques, ainsi que les conséquences que peuvent avoir de telles actions, selon le Code de conduite de l'étudiant et des procédures disciplinaires (pour de plus amples renseignements, veuillez consulter le site www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest/).

Right to submit in French

In accord with McGill University's Charter of Students' Rights, students in this course have the right to submit in English or in French any written work that is to be graded.

Conformément à la Charte des droits de l'étudiant de l'Université McGill, chaque étudiant a le droit de soumettre en français ou en anglais tout travail écrit devant être noté (sauf dans le cas des cours dont l'un des objets est la maîtrise d'une langue).

Inclusive learning environment

As the instructor of this course I endeavour to provide an inclusive learning environment. However, if you experience barriers to learning in this course, do not hesitate to discuss them with me and the Office for Students with Disabilities, 514-398-6009.

Extraordinary circumstances

In the event of extraordinary circumstances beyond the University's control, the content and/or evaluation scheme in this course is subject to change.

Schedule (Tentative and subject to adjustment)

			Topics	Reading	Quiz/Problem Set
1	T	9/4	Introduction to course		
	Th	9/6	Scientific method/Parts of speech	Chs. 1&2	
	F	9/7	Constituency & tests	Ch. 3	
2	T	9/11	Constituency & tests	Ch. 3	
	Th	9/13	Structural variation	Ch. 3	
	F	9/14	X'-theory	Ch. 6	
3	T	9/18	X'-theory & variation	Ch. 6	
	TH	9/20	X'-theory & variation	Ch. 6	
	F	9/21	Structural and grammatical relations	Ch. 4	
4	T	9/25	Extending X'-theory: DPs	Ch. 7	
	Th	9/27	Testing and improving hypotheses: Binding theory	Ch. 5	
	F	9/28	<i>Conference 1</i>		Quiz 1
5	T	10/2	Testing and improving hypotheses: Binding theory	Ch. 5	<i>(PS 1 available)</i>
	Th	10/4	Testing and improving hypotheses: Binding theory	Ch. 17 (selected)	
	F	10/5	<i>Conference 2</i>		Quiz 2
6	T	10/9	Lexicon: theta-roles, expletives	Ch. 8	
	Th	10/11	Functional categories	Ch. 9	
	F	10/12	<i>Conference 3</i>		PS 1 due
7	T	10/16	Movement: verbal projection	Ch. 10	
	Th	10/18	Review		
	F	10/19	<i>Conference 4</i>		Quiz 3
8	T	10/23	Movement: verbal projection	Ch. 10	Midterm Monday Oct 22
	Th	10/25	Movement: verbal projection	Ch. 10	
	F	10/26	DP movement and Case [Lecture, not conference]	Ch. 11	
9	T	10/30	DP movement and Case	Ch. 11	
	Th	11/1	DP movement and Case	Ch. 14 (selected)	
	F	11/2	<i>Conference 5</i>		Quiz 4
10	T	11/6	Raising vs. control	Ch. 15: 429-439	<i>(PS 2 available)</i>
	Th	11/8	Types of WH-movement	Ch. 12	
	F	11/9	<i>Conference 6</i>		Quiz 5 in conference
11	T	11/13	Types of WH-movement	Ch. 12	
	Th	11/15	Constraints on WH-movement	Ch. 13 (selected)	
	F	11/16	<i>Conference 7</i>		PS 2 due
12	T	11/20	Constraints on WH-movement	Ch. 13 (selected)	
	Th	11/22	catch-up time		
	F	11/23	<i>Conference 8</i>		
13	T	11/27	catch-up time		
	Th	11/29	Review		
	F	11/30	<i>Conference 9</i>		Quiz 6 in conference
			Final exam date & time TBA		