

# Syntax 1

LING 371 — Fall 2020

MWF 10:35–11:25

## Instructor

Dr. Carol-Rose Little

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*office hours:* Wednesdays 2–4

## Teaching assistant

Justin Royer — justin.royer@mail.mcgill.ca

**TA Office hours:** TBA

## Content of the course

This course aims to provide an introduction to the study of generative syntax of natural languages, emphasizing basic concepts and formalism: phrase structure rules, transformations, and conditions on rules.

## Textbook

*Syntax: A generative Introduction*, Third edition, Andrew Carnie, Wiley-Blackwell

## Remote delivery

- All lectures will be taught live via Zoom. Lectures will be recorded live, and posted on MyCourses. They will remain available throughout the semester. All Zoom links will be posted on myCourses.
- Starting in week 3, Friday sessions will be held as conferences run by a TA (but see exception on Oct 23 in the tentative schedule below. Conferences will **not** be recorded, but they will be held at various times on Fridays in order to accommodate students located in different time zones (morning / afternoon / early evening; more details on myCourses). To determine which conference you will attend, **you must sign up on Minerva**.
- All assignments, quizzes, and exams (see below) will be posted on myCourses. In order to accommodate students in different time zones, we will keep online exams and quizzes open for 48 hours.
- All course materials (e.g. lecture slides, conference handouts, supplementary readings) will be posted on myCourses as early as possible, and will remain available throughout the semester.
- Instructor office hours will be held weekly online, and can be scheduled by appointment.
- All times correspond to the Montreal time zone.

## Requirements and evaluation

### Evaluation scheme

5 quizzes	10% (5 x 2%)
2 problem sets	30% (15% each)
Midterm exam	25%
Final exam	35%

### Problem sets

Over the course of the semester, you will have 2 problem sets to turn in. These problem sets will be submitted through Crowdmark and must be typed. Late submissions will lose 5% of the grade per day. No late submissions will be accepted once assignments are returned or answers are made available. Problem sets may be done in pairs (both must be registered in the same conference section). One member of the pair should submit a **single assignment** with both names. Both members will receive the same grade. You are not required to work in pairs. For syntactic trees, the use of a tree drawing program is required. No email submission of problems sets will be accepted.

### Quizzes

There will be five short quizzes, available on MyCourses. These quizzes will include short questions or exercises to help you determine whether the basic material of the course is being understood.

### Exams

Exams will cover all material discussed in lectures and conferences. The midterm exam will be available on myCourses for 48 hours starting on **Friday Oct 30 at 9AM**. This will be an open-book exam (more information on myCourses). The final exam, which will also have an open-book format, will be scheduled by the Exams Office during the semester. According to Senate regulations, instructors are not permitted to make special arrangements for final exams. Any problem with grading on a problem set, quiz, or exam must be reported within one week of when the problem set, quiz, or exam was returned.

### Office hours and appointments

TA office hours are held every week, starting in Week 4. If you are unable to meet with the TA or professor during their office hours, you can ask for individual appointments or seek tutoring.

### Email

**Your TA should always be your first point of contact for general questions about the course**, and all email should be sent from your McGill email address. While we will try to respond to your email within two business days, please ask yourself the following before sending an email:

- Is the information I need on the syllabus or in other course material?
- Does a classmate have this information? or could it be answered on the MyCourses discussion board?
- Can my question wait until lecture/conference/office hours?

When sending email please put LING 371 in the subject line.

## **Tutors**

If you need additional help with course material, we encourage you to contact either Student Tutorial Services ([www.mcgill.ca/tutoring/](http://www.mcgill.ca/tutoring/)) or SLUM ([slum.linguistics@mail.mcgill.ca](mailto:slum.linguistics@mail.mcgill.ca)), the undergraduate linguistics association. Tutors can 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.

## **Class policies and university regulations**

### **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/integrity](http://www.mcgill.ca/integrity) for more information).

### **Right to submit work 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.

### **Inclusivity**

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

### **Copyright: Instructor-generated course material**

© 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.

### **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.

## **Territory acknowledgement**

McGill University is on land which has long served as a site of meeting and exchange amongst Indigenous peoples, including the Haudenosaunee and Anishinabeg nations. We acknowledge and thank the diverse Indigenous people whose footsteps have marked this territory on which peoples of the world now gather.

## Tentative schedule

	<b>Date</b>		<b>Topics (tentative)</b>	<b>Deadlines</b>
<b>1</b>	W	9/2	Introduction	
	F	9/4	Generative grammar, parts of speech (Chs. 1 & 2)	
<b>2</b>	M	9/7	<i>Labour Day</i>	
	W	9/9	Constituency, trees, and rules (Ch. 3)	
	F	9/11	Constituency, trees, and rules (Ch. 3)	
<b>3</b>	M	9/14	Structural relations (Ch. 4)	
	W	9/16	Structural relations (Ch. 4)	
	F	9/18	<i>Conference 1</i>	
<b>4</b>	M	9/21	Binding theory (Ch. 5)	
	W	9/23	Binding theory (Ch. 5)	
	F	9/25	<i>Conference 2</i>	
<b>5</b>	M	9/28	X-bar theory (Ch. 6)	
	W	9/30	X-bar theory (Ch. 6)	
	F	10/2	<i>Conference 3</i>	
<b>6</b>	M	10/5	Extending X-bar theory (Ch. 7)	
	W	10/7	Extending X-bar theory (Ch. 7)	
	F	10/9	<i>Conference 4</i>	
<b>7</b>	M	10/12	<i>Thanksgiving Day</i>	
	W	10/14	Constraining X-bar theory (Ch. 8)	
	F	10/16	<i>Conference 5</i>	
<b>8</b>	M	10/19	Constraining X-bar theory (Ch. 8)	
	W	10/21	Auxiliaries and functional categories (Ch. 9)	
	F	10/23	<i>Conference 6</i>	
<b>9</b>	M	10/26	Auxiliaries and functional categories (Ch. 9)	
	W	10/28	Midterm review	
	<b>F</b>	10/30	<b>Midterm exam</b>	
<b>10</b>	M	11/2	Head-to-head movement (Ch. 10)	
	W	11/4	Head-to-head movement (Ch. 10)	
	F	11/6	<i>Conference 7</i>	
<b>11</b>	M	11/9	DP movement (Ch. 11)	
	W	11/11	DP movement (Ch. 11)	
	F	11/13	<i>Conference 8</i>	
<b>12</b>	M	11/16	Wh-movement and locality (Ch. 12)	
	W	11/18	Wh-movement and locality (Ch. 12)	
	F	11/20	<i>Conference 9</i>	
<b>13</b>	M	11/23	Expanded VPs (Ch. 14)	
	W	11/25	Expanded VPs (Ch. 14)	
	F	11/27	<i>Conference 10</i>	
<b>14</b>	M	11/30	Topics in polysynthesis (Ch. 18)	
	W	12/2	Topics in polysynthesis (Ch. 18)	
	<b>Th</b>	12/3	Final review	
<b>Final exam: TBD</b>				