

Syntax 4: Control

LING 675/775, Winter 2023

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Office hours: by appointment

Lecture: M-W, 10:05 am - 11:25 am, Linguistics 117

Description of the Course

Control is one of the most long-standing, difficult, well-studied, and fundamental problems in syntax and semantics. The literature of control is rich in both comparative and in-depth language-particular studies. Because of its (surface) simplicity and pervasiveness, control has been a domain that implicates fundamental questions about syntax, semantics, and their interface, such as the division of labor between syntax and semantics in accounting for apparent form-meaning mismatches, and the interplay of lexically specified meaning, compositional principles, contextual factors, and pragmatic reasoning in interpretation. The seminar will cover both classical and contemporary literature on control phenomena in various languages.

Course requirements and evaluation

Graded components	LING 675	LING 775 (pass/fail)
Participation	25%	60%
Article presentation	10%	40%
Article review	15%	
Final paper & presentation	50%	

Participation

This course is almost exclusively based on readings and in-class discussion. You are therefore expected to read the assigned papers in advance and attend class. Your attendance is crucial for the success of the class. The participation grade includes attendance and responses to readings on the MyCourses site. Each student is required to post a comment or a question to the MyCourses Discussion site by 8 pm the day before every class, addressing either the readings, or the material in general. Questions should be meaningful – i.e., they should not be only clarification questions (though you are of course encouraged to ask those as well, either in class or on the Discussion site). You are not expected to understand everything, however, the expectation is that you will have read the paper carefully enough to identify what you do not understand. In class, we will practice asking the right questions and exploring possible ways of getting some answers.

Article presentation

Each student taking the class for credit is expected to lead the discussion of one article. See the schedule for the available articles. The discussion should be accompanied by a detailed handout.

Article review

In addition to presenting an article from the reading list, you should also choose an article that you will write a 2-page review of. You should pretend that you are reviewing the article for a journal. The review must be submitted before we discuss the article in class.

Final paper and presentation

The final paper is an opportunity for you to engage with one of the topics of the course in depth. Your paper should have the potential to be developed into a research project, meaning that it needs to make an original empirical and/or theoretical contribution. Your paper cannot be just a summary/critical overview of the literature, but you are welcome to provide a novel analysis for data we discuss in class, or an analysis that would unify different phenomena. You should meet with me during **the week of March 6** (first week after the break) to discuss your topic. A 1-page proposal will be due on **March 27**, and the paper on **April 20** (via email).

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 for more information).

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.

Schedule

The following topics will be covered approximately in the order laid out below. The readings and the schedule are subject to change. The readings will be available through MyCourses.

DATE	TOPIC	READINGS
Jan 4	The basic data	Perlmutter (1970)
Jan 9	The view from GB	Haegeman (1994), Ch. 5
Jan 11	The view from semantics	Dowty (1985); Chierchia (1983)
Jan 16	On <i>de se</i>	Chierchia (1989)*
Jan 18	Case in Russian control	Landau (2008)
Jan 23	Finite control	Landau (2004)
Jan 25	The distribution of subjects	Sundaesan and McFadden (2009)
Jan 30	PRO & <i>pro</i>	McFadden and Sundaesan (2018)*
Feb 1	The Movement Theory of Control	Boeckx et al. (2010), Ch. 3, 4
Feb 6	Icelandic against the MTC	Bobaljik and Landau (2009)*
Feb 8	Back to the MTC	Boeckx et al. (2010), Ch. 5
Feb 13	Restructuring	Wurmbrand (2001), Ch. 2, §1-3
Feb 15	Restructuring	Wurmbrand (2001), Ch. 3
Feb 20	Restructuring and Exhaustive Control	Cinque (2004)*
Feb 22	EC as movement	Grano (2015)
*** BREAK ***		
March 6	EC as movement	Martinović (2022)
March 8	The semantics of Partial Control	Pearson (2016)*
March 13	Backward, copy control	Polinsky and Potsdam (2002)
March 15	More on backward control	Pietraszko (2021), Potsdam (2009)
March 20	Clausal complement size	Wurmbrand and Lohninger (In press)
March 22	Deriving clause size	Pesetsky (2021)
March 27	Adjunct control	Green (2018), Ch. 3
March 29	Adjunct control	Green (2018), Ch. 4
April 3	TBD	
April 5	TBD	
April 10	Wrapping up	
April 12	final paper presentations	

* – paper available for presentation

References

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