



FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

SCHOOL OF LINGUISTICS AND APPLIED LANGUAGE STUDIES

**MASTER OF ARTS
LALS 561 SYNTACTIC ANALYSIS
15 POINTS**

TRIMESTER 1 2014

Important dates

Trimester dates: 3 March to 2 July 2014

Teaching dates: 3 March to 6 June 2014

Easter/Mid-trimester break: 18 April to 4 May 2014

Last assessment item due: 5 June 2014

Withdrawal dates: Refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/withdrawals-refunds. If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test or examination, refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats.

Class times and locations

Tutorial: Mon 12:00-12:50 in MY 404, or: Mon 4:10-5:00 in MY 404

Note: Tutorials begin in the second week (beginning 10 March).

Please go to <<https://signups.vuw.ac.nz>> to sign up for a tutorial. This facility will close on 6 March 2014.

Meetings: Three meetings with the course coordinator.

The first meeting will be held: Thurs 6 March 13:10-15:00 in VZ 105.

The dates and times for the two further meetings: TBA.

For background, students may wish to attend LING 327 lecture classes:

Lectures: Mon, Wed, Fri: 11:00-11:50 in AM 104

Names and contact details

Course coordinator: Dr Elizabeth Pearce
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Office: VZ303
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Office hours: see VZ 303 door notice

Course Administrator: Janet Attrill
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Communication of additional information

Notices relating to the course will be posted on the Honours Notice Board next to VZ 307 on Floor 3 of the Von Zedlitz building and on Blackboard.

Prescription

Advanced study in an area of grammatical analysis.

Course learning objectives (CLOs)

Students who pass this course should be able to

1. understand the basic concepts of X-bar theory and how the theory is applied to the analysis of sentence data,
2. apply the X-bar model in the analysis of sentence data from English and other languages,
3. understand the role of tree structures, and be able to apply them, in the modelling of semantic relations between items in sentences,
4. form conclusions based on the analysis of sentence data from the perspective of a formal framework,
5. understand and evaluate literature in syntax developing out of X-bar theory.

Teaching format

The course delivery is through the tutorial classes and meetings as listed under Class times and locations. Students are expected to contribute to discussions in tutorials and meetings.

Mandatory course requirements

In addition to achieving an overall pass mark of 50%, students must:

Attend all dedicated LALS 561 classes, present material as agreed, and complete all in-course written work by the specified dates.

Let the lecturer know IN ADVANCE if they are unable to participate in a particular class.

Submit the written work specified for this course, on or by the specified dates (subject to such provisions as are stated for late submission of work).

Workload

In order to make satisfactory progress in this course you should expect to devote, on average, 150 hours spread out over the 12 weeks of the trimester and the mid-trimester break (that is, 11 hours per week). You should expect to spend roughly 50% (5.5 hours) of this time on at classes, preparation for classes and background reading and 50% (5.5 hours) on preparation for assignments and writing of assignments. Some students will find they need to do more than this, and students aiming for high grades will almost certainly need to do more.

Assessment

The required pieces of work for the course are set out below.

Assignment	CLOs	Date due	Percentage of total marks
Assignment 1 (max 8 pages/1,000 words)	3, 4	24 March	20%
Assignment 2 (max 12 pages/1,500 words)	1, 2, 3, 4	5 May	30%
Assignment 3 (max 16 pages/2,500 words)	1-5	5 June	50%

The assessment is designed to assess how well you are progressively achieving the course objectives as in the CLOs listed above. Assignment 1 is an exercise designed as an introduction to the conceptual basis of the approach to the understanding of sentence grammar as implemented in X-bar theory. Assignment 2 is designed especially to give you experience in the application of theoretical concepts to the analysis of data sourced from languages other than English. Assignment 3 provides you with the opportunity to develop a more sustained analysis of data pertaining to a particular topic in the syntax of a particular language and including relevant discussion of literature on the topic. The marking criteria accord with how well the work that is produced fulfils the instructions that are given with each assignment task.

Submission and return of work

One electronic copy of each assignment should be submitted to Blackboard and two hard copies of each assignment should also be submitted.

General guidelines

When preparing typed or word-processed documents:

- Set margins to at least 2.5 cm
- Set line spacing to single space for text
- Set font size of 12 point
- Include page numbers
- Include the cover page (see attachment) showing the course number and name, your name, the course lecturer, the title of the assignment, and the date the assignment is due
- If you have to draw tree structures or special symbols in by hand, check that this has been done legibly and consistently
- Print both sides of page.

Hard copy submissions

- Staple pages together
- Avoid presenting assignments in bulky folders or sleeves unless necessary
- Avoid inserting individual pages in clearfile sleeves

The pieces of set work should be handed to your lecturer personally or put in the box outside the secretary's room, VZ 210, on the 2nd floor of the Von Zedlitz building. Please keep a back up copy of all work handed in. Graded assignments will be returned in class.

Extensions and penalties

Extensions

In line with the Linguistics Programme policy, assignments handed in after the due date will receive a considerably reduced grade (see below) unless accompanied by a medical certificate or other evidence of exceptional circumstances. If you require an extension for good reasons, ask the course coordinator ahead of the date for handing in the assignment. Such an extension may be given only up to the point at which the assignments are handed back.

Penalties

Assignments handed in late with no extension will receive a penalty of one grade for every 24 hours of lateness (weekends counting as 24 hours for this purpose) and after one week will receive no grade, but will still be accepted for mandatory course requirements.

Set texts

You should bring a copy of the Coursebook (obtainable from Vicbooks (see: www.vicbooks.co.nz), cost approximately \$17, to all classes.

Recommended reading

The following books are, however, the **recommended textbooks** for this course:

Adger, David. 2003. *Core Syntax: A Minimalist Approach*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Carnie, Andrew. 2013. *Syntax: A Generative Introduction*. Third Edition. Oxford: Blackwell. Or: an earlier edition

Cowper, Elizabeth A. 1992. *A Concise Introduction to Syntactic Theory*. Chicago & London: University of Chicago Press.

Haegeman, Liliane. 1994. *Introduction to Government and Binding Theory*. 2nd Edition. Oxford: Blackwell. Or: First Edition (1991).

Ouhalla, Jamal. 1999. *Introducing Transformational Grammar: From Principles and Parameters to Minimalism*. 2nd Edition. London: Arnold.

Detailed reading lists in the individual topic areas and other reading matter relating to particular topics are provided in the Coursebook. Other supplementary material supporting the content of the lectures may also be distributed in class. A large number of books and periodicals useful for this course have been placed on 3 day loan and closed reserve.

Class representative

A class representative for the MA by coursework year will be selected at the beginning of the year.

Student feedback

There have been no formal student evaluations administered in this particular course because of the small numbers of students in the course. The course coordinator has only received informal feedback from individual students and is prepared to discuss the content of this feedback.

Other important information

The information above is specific to this course. There is other important information that students must familiarise themselves with, including:

- Academic Integrity and Plagiarism: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/integrity-plagiarism
- Aegrotats: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats
- Academic Progress: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/academic-progress (including restrictions and non-engagement)
- Dates and deadlines: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/dates
- FHSS Student and Academic Services Office: www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin
- Grades: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/grades
- Resolving academic issues: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications
- Special passes: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications
- Statutes and policies including the Student Conduct Statute: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/strategy
- Student support: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support
- Students with disabilities: www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/disability

- Student Charter: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/student-charter
- Student Contract: www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract
- Subject Librarians: <http://library.victoria.ac.nz/library/resources/subjectcontacts.html>
- Turnitin: www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin
- University structure: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure
- VUWSA: www.vuwsa.org.nz