

Department: Linguistics

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Course No : LING 206

Title : Syntax and Semantics

Credits : 3

Contact: Harry van der Hulst

QW: Q

Catalog Copy : 206Q. Syntax and Semantics. Second semester. Three credits. Three hours. Two lectures weekly. Prerequisite: LING 101 or LING 110 or LING 202; MATH 101 or passed Q Readiness Test or passed Q course. *Departmental staff.* The analysis of form and meaning in natural language in a Chomskyan framework: surface structures, deep structures, transformational rules and principles of semantic interpretation.

Course Information :

- *Brief description :* This course provides insight into the syntactic and semantic structure of language, paying attention to general principles as well as to differences between languages. It teaches formal techniques for the analysis of datasets and the expression of generalizations in algorithmic form.
- *Course requirements :* Exam formats (multiple choice questions and open questions, data sets for analysis); Homework (essay questions, datasets for analysis), Reading (book chapters, handouts, selected articles)
- *Topics/themes :* phrase structures rules, X-bar theory, transformations, deep/surface structure, semantics versus pragmatics, compositionality, quantification

Q Criteria:

Criterion 1 . The analytic framework of generative grammar requires the analysis of complex datasets in terms of recurrent patterns (significant generalizations) and their interaction. Recurrent patterns are expressed in formulaic terms, using a fixed vocabulary of primitives (called syntactic features/categories) and a fixed combinatory system for deriving complex expressions (called syntactic rules or constraints). The resulting rules/constraint are then placed in an interactive system with special properties such as extrinsic ordering (or constraint ranking).

Criterion 2 . Studying semantics involves the use of predicate calculus (first and second order symbolic logic) and basic set theory.

Criteria 2 and 3 . With these properties, studying the syntax and semantic within framework of generative grammar builds formal, analytic skills, algorithmic thinking, skill at set theory, functions, and the use of abstract structures (often expressed in graph form).

Role of Grad Students : - N/A