

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS</b> <b>DEPARTMENT OF LINGUISTICS</b></p>
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**Syntax – LING 5310/6020**  
**Spring Semester 2023**

**General Information:**

Instructor: Dorian Roehrs  
Email: roehrs@unt.edu  
Main office: (940) 565-4552

Office hours: W/R 5:00 – 5:30 (LANG 409L) and by appointment

Class meets: W 5:30 – 8:20 (LANG 104)

**Important Dates:**

Final project: Wednesday, May 10

**Course Description and Objectives:**

The purpose of this course is to help students acquire formal tools for linguistic theory, and to help them make their first steps toward applying those tools to natural language syntax, the study of linguistic structure. The focus will be on modelling syntactic intuitions of human beings about possible sentences and other structures.

The goals of this course are twofold:

- 1) to develop the conceptual tools needed for the analysis of structure
- 2) to get acquainted with a number of issues in syntax

The main language of investigation will be English, but we will also discuss examples from other languages as presented in the textbook and other materials. More generally, the course aims at further developing analytical linguistic skills and a deeper understanding of language. The class is participatory (this is not a lecture course); that means, students should take notes on their readings at home.

**Required Text:**

Carnie, Andrew. 2021. *Syntax: A Generative Introduction*. 4<sup>th</sup> ed. Wiley Blackwell.

Video clips (based on textbook):

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSEZ6duRxX6R25mhRO06QnQ>

Instructor-generated handouts

**General Course Policies:**

1. Attendance: Repeated unexcused absences and tardiness will affect your grade significantly. Three tardies are the equivalent of one absence. You are allowed a maximum of one (1) absence without penalty. After one

absence, your attendance grade will suffer in percent. After the fourth absence, you will receive a failing grade for the entire class. Under certain circumstances, special accommodations can be made at the instructor's discretion.

2. Participation: Careful preparation for class and regular, active participation are the foundation of this course!

3. Homework: There are reading, video, and exercise assignments due for each class period. These assignments will consist of taking notes and doing some exercises. It is recommended to do the assignments in the following sequence: chapter video clips, textbook chapter, chapter exercises. In addition, students will write three chapter papers.

4. Discussion of Survey/Research Paper: In teams, students will present the main findings of a survey or research paper during the final part of the class.

5. Optional Quizzes: Students are invited to take optional quizzes. They will count as extra credit.

6. Final Project: The Final Project will consist of a longer paper. It will be based on the material studied in class but applied to a different language. It will be due on **May 10**.

7. Length and Formatting of Write-ups:

Chapter Papers (3):      2 - max. 3 pages  
Final Project:            7 - max. 10 pages

12-point font, Times New Roman, double-spaced, 1-inch margins all around

**COLLECTIVE WORK.** Students are allowed (in fact, encouraged) to work together on the homework assignments. However, every student will turn in their own write-up (and not a copy of somebody else's).

All class communication will be sent to your official UNT email address.

#### **Evaluation:**

#### **Grade Distribution:**

Attendance, Preparation, <b>Active</b> Participation	10%	A = 100 – 90%
Write-ups of Chapter Papers (3 x 15 points)	45%	B = 89.9 – 80%
Team Discussions of Survey/Research Paper	10%	C = 79.9 – 70%
Presentation of Final Project	10%	D = 69.9 – 60%
Write-up of Final Project	25%	F = 59.9 – 0%
Optional Quizzes (10 out of 13 at average of 85%)	(5 %)	

#### **Religious Holidays:**

In accordance with Section 51.911 of the Texas Education Code, UNT will allow a student who is absent from class for observance of a religious holy day to take an examination or complete an assignment scheduled for that day within a reasonable time. Students are required to file a written request with each professor within the first 15 days of the semester to qualify for an excused absence. A copy of the state rules and procedures regarding holy days and the form for notification of absence from each class under this provision are available from the Registrar's Office.

## **American with Disabilities Act Compliance:**

The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking reasonable accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Access (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with a reasonable accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request reasonable accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of reasonable accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of reasonable accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. Students are strongly encouraged to deliver letters of reasonable accommodation during faculty office hours or by appointment. Faculty members have the authority to ask students to discuss such letters during their designated office hours to protect the privacy of the student. For additional information, refer to the Office of Disability Access website at <https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/office-disability-access>. You may also contact ODA by phone at (940) 565-4323.

## **Acceptable Student Behavior:**

Student behavior that interferes with an instructor's ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Dean of Students to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The university's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including university and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at <https://policy.unt.edu/policy/07-012>

## **Sexual Discrimination, Harassment, & Assault**

UNT is committed to providing an environment free of all forms of discrimination and sexual harassment, including sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. If you (or someone you know) has experienced or experiences any of these acts of aggression, please know that you are not alone. The federal Title IX law makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender are Civil Rights offenses. UNT has staff members trained to support you in navigating campus life, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations, helping with legal protective orders, and more.

UNT's Dean of Students' website offers a range of on-campus and off-campus resources to help support survivors, depending on their unique needs: <http://deanofstudents.unt.edu/resources>.

The UNT Survivor Advocates can be reached by emailing [SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu](mailto:SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu) or calling 940-565-2648. The UNT Survivor Advocates connect students who have been impacted by violence to resources (counseling, health, safety, academics, legal, etc.), and act as their advocate. They can assist a student by filing protective orders, completing crime victim's compensation applications, contacting professors for absences related to an assault, working with housing to facilitate a room change (if needed), and connecting students to the many other resources that are available, both on and off campus. They are here to help! For more information see <https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/sexual-misconduct/reporting-sexual-misconduct>

## **Student Perceptions of Teaching (SPOT):**

The student evaluation of teaching effectiveness is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. A short survey will be made available to you at the end of the semester, providing you a chance to comment on how

this class is taught. I am very interested in the feedback I get from students, as I work to continually improve my teaching. I consider SPOT to be an important part of your participation in this class.

### Tentative Schedule

PLEASE NOTE THERE WILL BE NO RIGID ADHERENCE TO THIS SCHEDULE, SHOULD THE CLASS NEED MORE TIME FOR SOME LESSONS AND LESS TIME FOR OTHER LESSONS.

week	contents	assignments
WEEK 1 <b>Jan. 16 MLK-Day</b> Jan. 17 – 20	Introduction to course <b>Chapter 1: Generative Grammar</b>	Read Chapter 1, Videos 1, exercises
WEEK 2 Jan. 23 – 27	<b>Chapter 2: Parts of Speech</b>	Read Chapter 2, Videos 2, exercises
WEEK 3 Jan. 30 – Feb. 3	<b>Chapter 3: Constituency, Trees, and Rules</b>	Read Chapter 3, Videos 3, exercises
WEEK 4 Feb. 6 – 10	<b>Chapter 4: Structural Relations</b>	Read Chapter 4, Videos 4, exercises
WEEK 5 Feb. 13 – 17	<b>Chapter 5: Binding Theory</b>	Read Chapter 5, Videos 5, exercises; <b>Paper 1</b>
WEEK 6 Feb. 20 – 24	<b>Chapter 6: X-bar Theory</b>	Read Chapter 6, Videos 6, exercises
WEEK 7 Feb. 27 – March 3	<b>Chapter 7: Extending X-bar Theory to Functional Categories</b>	Read Chapter 7, Videos 7, exercises
WEEK 8 March 6 – 10	<b>Chapter 8: Constraining X-bar: Theta Theory</b>	Read Chapter 8, Videos 8, exercises; <b>Paper 2</b>
<b>Spring Break</b>		
WEEK 9 March 20 – 24	<b>Chapter 9: Theta Grids and Functional Categories</b>	Read Chapter 9, Videos 9, exercises
WEEK 10 March 27 – 31	<b>Chapter 10: Head-to-Head Movement</b>	Read Chapter 10, Videos 10, exercises
WEEK 11 April 3 – 7	<b>Chapter 11: DP Movement</b>	Read Chapter 11, Videos 11, exercises; <b>Paper 3</b>
WEEK 12 April 10 – 14	<b>Chapter 12: Wh-movement and Locality Constraints</b>	Read Chapter 12, Videos 12, exercises
WEEK 13 April 17 – 21	<b>Chapter 13: A Unified Theory of Movement</b>	Read Chapter 13, Videos 13, exercises
WEEK 14 April 24 – 28	Team Discussions of survey/research papers	<b>TBD</b>
WEEK 15 (Pre-final w) May 1 – 4 <b>May 5 Reading D.</b>	Presentations and feedback	<b>Presentation of Final Project</b>
Finals	<b>May 10, 2022</b>	<b>Write-up of Final Project</b>