Enquire Teaching Timetable

Course Outcome

LING 2005 - Syntax I

Learning Outcome

 to familiarize students with basic goals and assumptions in universal grammar (UG);
 to train students to be able to identify structural patterns and make sensible generalizations;
 to train students in the rudiments of structural analysis and argumentation in syntax;
 to familiarize students with major structural properties in English and extend them to their native language(s) to bring into light the relevance of syntactic theories in UG and their applications to specific languages

Course Syllabus

	Topic	Contents/ Fundamental concepts
	Fundamentals in syntax	Grammar, syntax; competence vs. performance; I-languages vs. E-language; the language faculty; levels of adequacies in linguistic research; structural ambiguity; prescriptive vs. descriptive grammars; constituency structure and structural hierarchy
	Structural relations	Recursiveness in syntax; diagnostics for constituency structures; coordination, embedding, adjunction, replacement, cleftings, pseudo-clefting, fronting, & movement; VP, TP, & CP structures; motivating X-bar/X' theory
	Binding theory	Types of determiner phrases (DPs), anaphor, antecedent, reflexive, reciprocal & referential expression; difference between personal and reflexive pronouns; motivating structural dependencies and the Binding Theory: c-c-command, dominance & precedence relations
	Empty categories & related theories	Verb/predicate argument structure, null/covert categories; wanna contraction & PRO; motivating Projection Principle and Full Interpretation; proposition, tensed clause; agreement; control; adverb placement
	Head movement & VP structure	The VP-internal Subject hypothesis; V to T movement; lexical decomposition, motivating the VP Shell Hypothesis & light verb projection; V to v movement in Chinese as an illustration
	A movement & related theories	Theta Theory & the Theta Criterion, theta grid & thematic hierarchy; external vs. internal arguments; argumental vs. non-argumental noun phrases, expletive; Case Theory, Case Filter; structural vs. lexical Cases; structural configuration of Case assignment; [A] csv [-A]/A-bar positions; Burzio's Generalization & related constructions; passive, middle & unaccusative; stative vs. eventive sentences
	Raising VS. Control and related theories	Difference between structural positions & arguments; raising construction; subject control vs. object control constructions; arbitrary PRO; exceptional Case marking construction

	Wh-movement & related theories	Clause types and complementizers; Move-a, Xo (head) movement, XP (A & A'/A-bar movement); relative clause vs. appositive clause; movement and c-command	

	Assessment Type	Current Percent
1	Essays	30
2	Essay test or exam	30
3	Others	10
4	Presentation	15
5	Short answer test or exam	15

Students are strongly encouraged to give timely feedback on the course directly to the course teacher and the teaching assistant, via e-mail or on Moodle. To facilitate learning, there will be two rounds of collection of questions in class, one before the mid-term quiz and the other before the final examination. These questions will be incorporated into the discussion in class.

1. Textbooks
Carnie, A. 2007. Syntax: A Generative Introduction. 2nd edition. Blackwell.
Radford, A. 1997. Syntactic Theory and the Structure of English: A Minimalist Approach. Cambridge University Press.

2. Reference books (On reserve)
Tallerman, M. 2005. Understanding Syntax. Arnold.
Cook, V. and M. Newson. 2007. Chomsky's Universal Grammar: An Introduction, 3rd edition. Blackwell.
Haegeman, L. 2006. Thinking Syntactically: A Guide to Argumentation and Analysis. Blackwell.
3. PPT files with animated tree diagrams and derivations to accompany teaching notes