

# Syntax and Grammatical Theory (LING 535)

Spring 2023 • Wednesdays 9:30–11:50, GFS 330

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Office hours: Friday 10:00 am to 12:00 pm, and by appointment

## Course goals

As a continuation of LING 530, this course will deepen your familiarity with syntactic theory by focusing on  $\bar{A}$ -phenomena and their connections to semantics, morphology, and sentence processing. One major goal is to hone skills for efficiently digesting both classic and contemporary literature. A second is to simulate the arc of a professional research project: conception, analysis, presentation, peer-review, and producing a final written product.

## Requirements

*Participation:* Active engagement in class discussions is vital for any graduate course. Whether profound or trivial, questions and comments contribute to your own understanding, your classmates' understanding, and my understanding of your understanding. Free association is always preferable to silence.

*Readings:* These are listed in the schedule and can be found in this Google Drive folder. Besides reading through each of the papers for the assigned day, please also leave a question or comment on each in the Discussion Questions document before class begins.

*Homework assignments:* There will be a few written homework assignments, announced in class. You are encouraged to discuss and collaborate on them, but each student must write up their own analysis.

*Paper presentations:* In week 4, each student will lead discussion of a handbook chapter. Plan to draft a handout and schedule a meeting with me to workshop it in the previous week.

*Final project:* You have to identify a project having to do with a topic relevant to the class and develop it into a presentation and a paper. This should not be something that you have worked on before coming to USC but may be related to the work you did in LING 530, though the new work should be significantly different.

- Identify a topic and discuss it with me before **Friday, March 10**.
- A short description of the project is due **Friday, March 31**.
- A presentation of the project, with slides or a handout, will take place during the final class periods: **April 19** or **April 26**.
- A final version of the paper is due **May 10**.

## Schedule

Subject to change – keep an eye out for announcements

Date	Topic	Readings
Week 1 – Jan 11	Intro to $\bar{A}$ Syntax	Chomsky 1977
Week 2 – Jan 18	A/ $\bar{A}$ Distinction	Mahajan 1990, Ch. 1
Week 3 – Jan 25		Safir 2019 Van Urk 2015, Ch 4
Week 4 – Feb 1	<i>Wh</i> -Typology	Hiraiwa 2017 Bayer & Chen 2017 Dayal 2017 den Dikken 2017
Week 5 – Feb 8	Successive Cyclicity	McCloskey 2002 Van Urk & Richards 2015
Week 6 – Feb 15	Relative Clauses	Bhatt 2002 Hulsey & Sauerland 2006
Week 7 – Feb 22	Q-Theory	Cable 2010, Ch 2
Week 8 – Mar 1		Cable 2010, Ch 3
Week 9 – Mar 8	Relativized Minimality	Rizzi 2001
<i>Spring Break</i>		
Week 10 – Mar 22	Wh-Agreement	Chung 1994 Ershova 2021
Week 11 – Mar 29	Resumption	McCloskey 2002 Sichel 2014
Week 12 – April 5	Filler–Gap Processing	Keenan & Comrie 1977 Kwon et al. 2010 Phillips 2006
Week 13 – Apr 12		Wagers & Pendelton 2016 Polinsky et al. 2012

		Wu et al. 2016 Ackerman et al. 2018 Wagers et al. 2018
Week 14 – Apr 19	Processing Islands	Sprouse et al. 2012, Hofmeister et al. 2012
Week 15 – Apr 26	<i>Final Project Presentations</i>	

## Readings

- Ackerman, Lauren, Michael Frazier, and Masaya Yoshida. 2018. Resumptive pronouns can ameliorate illicit island extractions. *Linguistic Inquiry*, 49(4): 847–859.
- Bayer, Josef and Lisa Lai-Shen Cheng. 2017. *Wh*-in-situ.
- Bhatt, Rajesh. 2002. The raising analysis of relative clauses: Evidence from adjectival modification. *Natural Language Semantics*, 10: 43–90.
- Cable, Seth. 2010. *The grammar of Q: Q-particles, wh-movement and pied-piping*. Oxford University Press.
- Chomsky, Noam. 1977. On Wh-Movement. In P. Culicover, T. Wasow, and A. Akmajian (eds.), *Formal Syntax*. 71–132. New York: Academic Press.
- Chung, Sandra. 1994. *Wh*-agreement and “referentiality” in Chamorro. *Linguistic Inquiry*, 25(1): 1–44.
- Dayal, Veneeta. 2017. Multiple *wh*-questions. In *The Wiley Blackwell Companion to Syntax*, eds. Martin Everaert and Henk C. van Riemsdijk. Wiley.
- den Dikken, Marcel. 2017. Overtly marked *wh*-paths. In *The Wiley Blackwell Companion to Syntax*, eds. Martin Everaert and Henk C. van Riemsdijk. Wiley.
- Ershova, Ksenia. 2021. Diagnosing clause structure in a polysynthetic language: *Wh*-agreement and parasitic gaps in West Circassian. *Linguistic Inquiry*, 52(1): 1–38.
- Hiraiwa, Ken. 2017. Internally headed relative clauses. In *The Wiley Blackwell Companion to Syntax*, eds. Martin Everaert and Henk C. van Riemsdijk. Wiley.
- Hofmeister, Philip, Laura Staum Casasanto, and Ivan A. Sag. 2012. How do individual cognitive differences relate to acceptability judgments? A reply to Sprouse, Wagers, and Phillips. *Language*, 88(2): 390–400.
- Hulsey, Sarah and Uli Sauerland. 2006. Sorting out relative clauses. *Natural Language Semantics*, 14: 111–137.
- Kayne, Richard, Raffaella Zanuttini, and Thomas Leu (eds.) 2014. *An Annotated Syntax Reader: Lasting Insights and Questions*. Blackwell: Oxford.
- Keenan, Edward L. and Bernard Comrie. 1977. Noun phrase accessibility and Universal Grammar. *Linguistic Inquiry*, 8(1). 63–99.
- Kotek, Hadas. 2014. *Wh*-fronting in a two-probe system. *Natural Language and Linguistic Theory*, 32. 1105–1143.

- Kwon, Nayoung, Yoonhyoung Lee, Peter C. Gordon, Robert Kluender, and Maria Polinsky. 2010. Cognitive and linguistic factors affecting subject/object asymmetry: An eye-tracking study of prenominal relative clauses in Korean. *Language*, 86(3): 546–582.
- Mahajan, Anoop. 1990. The A/A-bar distinction and movement theory. Doctoral dissertation, MIT.
- McCloskey, James. 2002. Resumption, successive cyclicity, and the locality of operations. In S. Epstein and T. Seely (eds.) *Derivation and Explanation in the Minimalist Program*. Blackwell: Oxford. 184–226.
- McCloskey, James. 2017. Resumption. In *The Wiley Blackwell Companion to Syntax*, eds. Martin Everaert and Henk C. van Riemsdijk. Wiley.
- Phillips, Colin. 2006. The real-time status of island phenomena. *Language*, 82(4): 795–823.
- Rizzi, Luigi. 2001. Relativizing minimality effects. In *The Handbook of Contemporary Syntactic Theory*, eds. Mark Baltin and Chris Collins. Blackwell.
- Sichel, Ivy. 2014. Resumptive pronouns and competition. *Linguistic Inquiry*, 45(4). 655–693.
- Safir, Ken. 2019. The A/ $\bar{A}$  distinction as an epiphenomenon. *Linguistic Inquiry*, 50(2). 285–336.
- Sprouse, Jon, Matt Wagers, and Colin Phillips. 2012. A test of the relation between working-memory capacity and syntactic island effects. *Language*, 88(1): 82–123.
- van Urk, Coppe and Norvin Richards. 2015. Two components of long-distance extraction: Successive cyclicity in Dinka. *Linguistic Inquiry*, 46(1). 113–155.
- Wagers, Matthew W., Manuel F. Borja, and Sandra Chung. 2018. Grammatical licensing and relative clause parsing in a flexible word-order language. *Cognition*, 178: 207–221.