

## Course description

## Descriptif du cours

**Department :** Department of English

**Instructor (s):** M. Bouafif and A. Belabed Trabelsi

**Academic year:** 2021-2022

**Level:** 3<sup>rd</sup> year

**Course title:** SYNTAX

### Course outline:

- Week 1 Introduction
- Week 2 Constituency and Constituency Tests
- Week 3 Structural relations
- Week 4 The binding theory
- Week 5 X-bar Syntax:  
intermediate constituents  
Complement, adjunct, specifier
- Week 6 Xbar Syntax (ctd)
- Week 7 Advanced Xbar syntax: Functional Heads
- Week 8 Advanced xbar syntax (ctd)
- Week 9 The lexicon
- Week 10 Head to Head movement
- Week 11 DP movement
- Week 12 Wh -movement
- Week 13 Review: Theta grid, DP movment, WH movement
- Week 14 Mid Term Exam

**Course objectives:**

This course is an introduction to basic principles of generative syntactic theory, focusing on the structure of phrases and sentences as well as movement. The course is intended to provide students with an opportunity to explore the linguistic theories of syntax. Students will examine structure within language by describing and investigating the rules which govern phrase and sentence structure. Students will also study selected applications of these theories.

The basic objectives of this course are: to familiarize students with the basic goals and assumptions of Generative Grammar, to train them in the rudiments of syntactic analysis, and to familiarize them with the major syntactic structures of English.

By the end of the course, students will Master the basic concepts of English syntax, tree diagrams, and the X-bar theory and will be able to:

1. Analyze constituents (of phrases and clauses) and grammatical functions.
2. Determine the thematic roles assigned to arguments.
3. Investigate syntactic data and analyze it.
4. Develop problem-solving skills in syntax.

**Method of evaluation:**

Evaluation will be in the form of one written exam: a Progress Test towards the end of the first semester OR a final exam in January.

**References:**

Adger, D. (2003). *Core Syntax: A Minimalist Approach*. Oxford: OUP.

Carnie, A. (2013). *Syntax: A generative introduction*. Malden: Wiley-Blackwell.

Gelderen, E. V. (2017). *Syntax: An introduction to minimalism*. Amsterdam: John Benjamins Publishing Company.

Poole, G. (2001). *Syntactic Theory*. Basingstoke, Hampshire: Palgrave.

Miller, Jim. (2002). *An introduction to English syntax*. Edinburgh: EUP.

Radford, A. (2003). *Syntax: A minimalist introduction*. Cambridge: CUP.

Radford, A. (1998). *Syntactic Theory and the Structure of English*. Cambridge: CUP.

Santorini, Beatrice, and Anthony Kroch. 2007. *The syntax of natural language: An online introduction using the Trees program*. <https://www.ling.upenn.edu/~beatrice/syntax-textbook>.

Van Gelderen, E. (2017). *Syntax: an introduction to minimalism*. Arizona: John Benjamins.