

AM2 — Syntax: theories and models

A note of clarification

For bureaucratic reasons, this course has been split into two: AM2(I) and AM2(II). In reality, though, I am going to treat both as a single course, and you will get the same final grade in both.

Practical information

Time Tuesdays 12:00–14:00 and Thursdays 10:00–12:00
Place Haus 14:0.09
Website <http://www.luisvicente.net/am2-ws1213>
(ask me for the password to the protected readings).

Instructor Dr. Luis Vicente.
Office Haus 14:3.29
Email vicente@uni-potsdam.de
Office hours by email appointment
or check <http://www.luisvicente.net/schedule.html> and check if I'm free.

This course is going to be about the class of syntactic theories usually grouped under the label *transformational grammar*. I will make an effort to explain every relevant concept in class, but often I will assume that you remember everything you have learned in BM2 and VM2. If you need remedial help, get hold of a standard textbook as soon as possible. I recommend Adger 2003, *Core Syntax*.

Pass requirements

Midterm exams: 75% Each midterm (November 20, December 20, February 7) will be worth 25% of the final grade. They will happen during the regular class period. They questions in each midterm will target only the material we cover since the previous midterm.

If you know in advance that you will not be able to attend any of the midterms, let me know as soon as possible. If something unexpected happens on the day of the midterm and you can't take it, you will be able to do a resit it a few days later provided that you give me a proper justification of your absence (for example, if you are ill, I will need to see a note from your doctor). The resit will happen as soon as possible after the midterm.

Reading quizzes: 25% During the course, I will give out eight (8) take-home quizzes with questions about some of the assigned readings. The goal of these quizzes is to ensure that you read and make an effort to understand certain important papers. Typically, I will give the quiz out at the end of a Thursday class, and you'll have to return them to me (by email) *before 09:00 on Monday* (so that I can look at them before the Tuesday class). I will not allow late submissions, unless properly justified. Each quiz, if successfully completed, will be worth 3% of the final grade (the remaining 1% will be awarded to those who submit all eight quizzes).

in time). If you fail to submit *three or more* quizzes, you will not get any credit for this part of the course.

Schedule

The selection of readings might change as we go along. If it does, I'll notify you well in advance. All the readings will be available for download from the course website.

Block 1	Topics	Theoretical basics. Argument structure. Interface between syntax and the lexicon.
	Lectures	October 16—November 15 but no classes on November 1 and November 6!
	Midterm 1	November 20.
	Readings:	Belletti and Rizzi 1988; Chomsky 1957; Epstein 1998; Hale and Keyser 1993; Harley 1995; Kayne 1994; Kratzer 1996; Larson 1988.

Block 2	Topics	Case and agreement Movement processes and restrictions on movement.
	Lectures	November 22—December 18
	Midterm 2	December 20.
	Readings:	Bejar 2003; Chomsky 1977; Mahajan 1990; Polinsky and Potsdam 2001; Zaenen, Maling, and Thráinsson 1984.

Christmas break

Block 3	Topics	Interfaces of syntax with semantics, morphology, and phonology
	Lectures	January 4—February 5 January 10: attend the sessions of ConSOLE XXI (Griebnitzsee)
	Midterm 3	February 7.
	Readings:	Cinque 1993; Fox 1995; Rizzi 1997; Szendrői 2001.

List of readings

Bejar, Susana. 2003. Phi-syntax: a theory of agreement. Doctoral dissertation, University of Toronto.

Belletti, Adriana, and Luigi Rizzi. 1988. Psych-verbs and theta-theory. *Natural Language and Linguistic Theory* 6:291–352.

Chomsky, Noam. 1957. *Syntactic structures*. The Hague: Mouton.

Cinque, Guglielmo. 1993. A null theory of phrase and compound stress. *Linguistic Inquiry* 24:239–297.

Epstein, Samuel. 1998. The derivation of syntactic relations. In Epstein, Groat, Kawashima, and Kitahara (eds.) *A derivational approach to syntactic relations*, 16–45. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Fox, Danny. 1995. Economy and semantic interpretation. Doctoral dissertation, MIT.

- Harley, Heidi. 1995. Subjects, events, and licensing. Doctoral dissertation, MIT.
- Kayne, Richard. 1994. *The antisymmetry of syntax*. Cambridge: MIT Press.
- Kratzer, Angelika. 1996. Severing the external argument from its verb. In Rooryck and Zaring (eds.) *Phrase structure and the lexicon*, 109–137. Dordrecht: Kluwer.
- Mahajan, Anoop. 1990. The A/A-bar distinction and movement theory. Doctoral dissertation, MIT.
- Polinsky, Maria, and Eric Potsdam. 2001. Long distance agreement and topic in Tsez. *Natural Language and Linguistic Theory* 19:583–646.
- Rizzi, Luigi. 1997. The fine structure of the left periphery. In Haegeman (ed.) *Elements of grammar*, 281–337. Dordrecht: Kluwer.
- Szendrői, Kriszta. 2001. The phonology-syntax interface. Doctoral dissertation, University College London.
- Zaenen, Annie, Joan Maling, and Höskuldur Thráinsson. 1984. Case and grammatical functions: the Icelandic passive. *Syntax and Semantics* 24, 95–136. Dordrecht: Reidel.