Ling 120: Introduction to Syntax and Semantics
Spring 2017

Instructors	Email	Office	Office hours
Peter Jenks	jenks@berkeley.edu	1217 Dwinelle	M 11-12, W 1–2
Kenny Baclawski (GSI)	kbaclawski@berkeley.edu	1312 Dwinelle	T 1–2, Th 2–3
Emily Clem (GSI)	eclem@berkeley.edu	1312 Dwinelle	T 4–5, Th 3–4
Meetings:	MWF 10–11am	106 Stanley	

Description: This class introduces students to formal theories of syntax and semantics. *Syntax* is the study of the sentence structure of natural languages. *Semantics* is the study of the meaning of words and sentences, including how the meanings of words combine to make complex meanings. In this class we will develop a *formal* model of syntactic structure and meaning which can be used for any natural language. Along the way you will learn a lot more about the structure of English sentences, and learn new ways to think about grammatical differences between languages. Additionally, you will learn *to think critically*, *to argue for a particular conclusion based on a set of facts*, and *to think scientifically* about linguistic data.

Textbook/reading: There is no textbook for this class, and there will be no reading. Lecture notes and slides will be posted online shortly before each class, but they are not self-contained; they are a poor substitute for regular attendance.

Attendance: If you regularly miss lectures or sections, your grade will undoubtedly suffer. New material that you will be expected to know on your exams can be presented in both section or class time. Class time and section will both involve interactive problem sets and questions, where you work in small groups on new sets of data which we will discuss in class together, although these will be more of a focus in section.

Homework assignments: Homework assignments comprise a major component of your final grade. In these assignments, you will practice doing syntax and semantics, which is the best way to learn.

There will be 10 homework assignments, worth 25 points each. Your lowest grade will be dropped. Assignments will always be due on Wednesday, and will be posted by the end of the day on Wednesdays.

Assignments must be uploaded to bCourses before the beginning of class. *They must be typed and formatted as a .pdf document* and will typically be limited to one page in length. You can generate the pdf however you like: LaTeX, Microsoft Word, Google Docs, or whatever other program you prefer.

Late homework submissions will not be accepted without a doctor's note or documentation of an emergency. While your lowest grade on a homework assignment will be dropped, I strongly suggest you do your best to complete every homework assignment as unforeseen circumstances may get in your way of submitting them all.

Many people learn better when they work with others. You are encouraged to work together, but the work that you submit must be your own. *Please indicate at the top of each homework who else in the class you worked with.*

Sharing or posting your answers to the assignments in digital form constitutes cheating. This is because you have made your answers available to any student who wants them, and assisting another student in cheating is equivalent to cheating. Thus, if we find that any answers have been copied from a shared digital version, both the creator of the document and the person who copied the document is liable. By this same measure, creating answers collaboratively using technologies like Google Docs constitutes cheating.

As a member of the UC Berkeley community, act with honesty, integrity, and respect for others. If there is clear evidence that you have copied someone else's homework, you will not receive credit for that homework and disciplinary action may be taken. If you cheat on an exam or final, disciplinary action will be taken. Academic misconduct can result in a failing grade.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities Please see Professor Jenks as soon as possible if you need particular accommodations, and we will work out the necessary arrangements. If allowances are being requested on assignments or exams, you will be expected to have DSP documentation.

Scheduling Conflicts Please notify Professor Jenks in writing by the second week of the term about any known or potential extracurricular conflicts (such as religious observances, graduate or medical school interviews, or team activities). We will try our best to help you with making accommodations, but cannot promise them in all cases. In the event there is no mutually-workable solution, you may need to drop the class.

Midterms: There will be two in-class midterms on the Fridays of week 6 and week 10. *The second midterm is the Friday before spring break. Plan accordingly!*

Final Exam: The final exam will be on Tuesday May 9, from 3-6pm (pending confirmation from the registrar in week 11).

Grading: Your grades are out of a total of 500 points:

Breakdown:

Homework assignments (x10-1; lowest grade dropped)	225
Midterms (x2)	150
Final Exam	125
Total	500 points

Scale (rounded to the nearest integer):

		A	465–500	A-	450–464
B+	435–449	B	415–434	B-	400–414
C+	385–399	C	365–384	C-	350–364
D+	335–349	D	315–334	D-	300–314
F	0–299				

Schedule

Week	Days	Topic/Notes/Exams/Homework
1	Jan 17–20	Introduction to syntax, phrase structure grammar
2	Jan 23–27	Expanding the phrase structure grammar HW 1 due (Jan 25)
3	Jan 30–Feb 3	Lexical entries, arguments vs. adjuncts HW 2 due (Feb 1)
4	Feb 6–10	Complements and specifiers HW 3 due (Feb 8)
5	Feb 13–17	X-bar theory across languages HW 4 due (Feb 15)
6	Feb 20–24	*Midterm 1 on Friday, February 24* No class Monday
7	Feb 27–Mar 3	Compositionality, theta roles, lambda calculus HW 5 due (Mar 3)
8	Mar 6–10	VPISH, definiteness and quantification HW 6 due (Mar 10)
9	Mar 13–17	Negation and quantifier scope HW 7 due (Mar 17)
10	Mar 20–24	Binding *Midterm 2 on Friday, March 24*
	Mar 27–31	*Spring Break*
11	Apr 3–7	Argument movement HW 8 due (Apr 7)
12	Apr 10–14	Morphology, head movement HW 9 due (Apr 14)
13	Apr 17–21	Wh-movement HW 10 due (Apr 21)
14	Apr 24–28	Towards a unified theory of movement
	May 9	**Final Exam (to be confirmed): 3–6pm**