Syntax 1
LING 371 — Winter 2020
CRN: 2142
MWF 9:35–10:25, Trottier Building (ENGTR) 1100

Instructor

	Junko Shimoyama
email	Email via myCourses
	(In case you use junko.shimoyama@mcgill.ca, please make sure to include "LING 371" in the subject line, otherwise I may not be able to respond to your email.)
office	Room 219, 1085 Dr. Penfield Ave. (PE1085)
office hours	Mondays 1:00-2:30 pm and by appointment

Teaching assistant

Justin Royer (justin.royer@mail.mcgill.ca)
Office hours (Starting Week 4): TBA No TA office hours in Week 8 (post-midterm)

Course objectives

This course aims to provide an introduction to the study of generative syntax of natural languages, emphasizing basic concepts and formalisms: phrases structure rules, transformations, and conditions on rules. Practical emphasis is on development of argumentation and theory construction.

Requirements and evaluation

6 Quizzes	10% (5 x 2%; top five grades)
2 Problem sets	30% (2 x 15%)
Midterm exam	25%
Final exam	35%

Textbook

–*Syntax: A Generative Introduction*, Third Edition, Andrew Carnie, Wiley-Blackwell

- Note: Generative Syntax is relatively new (created in the mid-50's) and the claims of the theory are constantly being tested, revised, and retested. There is no 'truth', just a stage of where we are today. The good news is that any beginning student can have theory changing insights. The bad news is that no textbook that has had the time to be published accurately represents the current state of this particular theoretical framework. Disagreements with the textbook will be noted in slides.

Course rules and procedures

Conferences

Starting Week 3, Friday sessions will be held as conferences run by a TA, to apply the methods that are learned through the readings and lectures. You are responsible for the material covered in conferences just as you are responsible for the material covered in lectures. Conference schedule to be announced soon.

You must sign up for your conference section on Minerva. Once you have signed up for one section, you cannot switch to another. Once a section has reached its cap, no more students will be accepted into that section.

Quizzes

There will be six short quizzes. The top five grades will count toward your final grade. A practice quiz is provided before each quiz. Quizzes 1 through 4 will be online quizzes on myCourses, and **quizzes 5 and 6 will be given during the Friday conferences**. These quizzes will include short questions or exercises to help you determine whether the basic material of the course is being understood.

Problem sets

There will be two problem sets. These will include some basic questions but will also include more difficult material and cross-linguistic applications of the tools being discussed in the lectures and the conference sessions. **Late assignments will lose 5 points per day. No late submission is accepted once assignments are returned or answers are made available.**

Problem sets must be typed (no hand-written answers will be accepted), and submitted as PDF files. Non-PDF format will not be accepted. For syntactic trees, the use of a tree drawing program is required.

If you think it would aid your learning, problem sets may be done in pairs (i.e., max. 2 students). One member of the pair should submit **a single assignment** with both members' names and student ID numbers on it. The other member must submit a blank copy, indicating the name and the partner's name (otherwise, you will receive a zero for the assignment). Both members will receive the same grade. Note that you are not required to work in pairs.

No email submission of problem sets will be accepted.

Practice problems

Each week before a conference, practice problems will be posted on myCourses – some of them from the textbook – to be completed before the conference. These problems are meant to focus the questions for the conference session and to provide practice for the quizzes, assignments and exams.

Exams

The midterm and final exams will contain questions of the type seen in the quizzes, problem sets and practice problems (part multiple choice, part short answers, part problems). **Some of the questions will require application of the tools you have learned.**

The midterm exam is scheduled for: **Monday, February 24, 2020, 18:05–19:55 (STBIO S1/3)**

Course policy on the midterm exam, quizzes, etc.

Midterm conflict: Special arrangements will only be made for students who have a conflict with the midterm as scheduled. To be eligible, students must be registered in a conflicting course with a higher priority than LING 371. (namely, **BIOL 313 and MATH 223**). In case you have a midterm conflict, you must notify the instructor by the end of the add/drop period in writing (by email).

No special arrangements will be made with the midterm exam or quizzes unless **(i) we are notified within 24 hours of a missed midterm/quiz**; and **(ii) you provide appropriate documentation (e.g. a doctor's note) in order for makeup work to be approved.** No late quiz is given once quiz answers are made available. There will be no make-up or extra credit work or re-weighting of grades in this course.

It is your responsibility to make sure that problem sets, quizzes, email messages are submitted properly on myCourses. If you have any problems, please contact myCourses technical support.

Questions concerning grading

If you have any questions concerning grading on a problem set, quiz, or exam, please contact your TA first. Any questions must be reported within one week of receiving your grade.

Office hours and appointments

TA office hours are held every week, starting Week 4. If you are unable to meet with a TA during their office hours, you can ask for individual appointments and generally these can be arranged within one week of the request.

Tutors

If you feel that you need more individual attention, we encourage you to contact either the Student Tutorial Service (398-6011) or SLUM (the undergraduate linguistics student association: slum.linguistics@mail.mcgill.ca). It is understood that tutors help with the content of the course but do not help directly with assignments. Make sure that your tutor knows what is being covered in the course this term since the content can change from term to term.

Email

You can expect the instructor and TA to respond to your e-mail questions and comments (Email via myCourses; or in regular email, include "LING 371" in the subject line). However, please do not expect instant responses. We will try to respond **within two days, barring weekends**. Students often find the discussion board on myCourses helpful.

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Instructor-generated course materials (e.g., slides, handouts, conference materials, assignments, quizzes, exam questions, answer keys, etc.) are protected by law and may not be copied or distributed in any form or in any medium without explicit permission of the instructor. Note that infringements of copyright can be subject to follow up by the University under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures (see www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest/ for more information).

Academic integrity

McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore, all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences under the code of student conduct and disciplinary procedures (see www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest/ for more information).

L'université McGill attache une haute importance à l'honnêteté académique. Il incombe par conséquent à tous les étudiants de comprendre ce que l'on entend par tricherie, plagiat et autres infractions académiques, ainsi que les conséquences que peuvent avoir de telles actions, selon le Code de conduite de l'étudiant et des procédures disciplinaires (pour de plus amples renseignements, veuillez consulter le site www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest/).

Right to submit in French

In accord with McGill University's Charter of Students' Rights, students in this course have the right to submit in English or in French any written work that is to be graded.

Conformément à la Charte des droits de l'étudiant de l'Université McGill, chaque étudiant a le droit de soumettre en français ou en anglais tout travail écrit devant être noté (sauf dans le cas des cours dont l'un des objets est la maîtrise d'une langue).

Inclusive learning environment

As the instructor of this course I endeavour to provide an inclusive learning environment. However, if you experience barriers to learning in this course, do not hesitate to discuss them with me and the Office for Students with Disabilities, 514-398-6009.

Extraordinary circumstances

In the event of extraordinary circumstances beyond the University's control, the content and/or evaluation scheme in this course is subject to change.

Schedule (Tentative and subject to adjustment)

			Topics	Reading	Quiz/Problem Set
1	M	1/6	Introduction to course/Unconscious knowledge		
	W	1/8	Scientific method/Parts of speech	Chs. 1&2	
	F	1/10	Constituency & tests	Ch. 3	
2	M	1/13	Constituency & tests/Structural variation	Ch. 3	
	W	1/15	X′-theory	Ch. 6	
	F	1/17	X′-theory & language variation	Ch. 6	
3	M	1/20	Structural relations	Ch. 4	
	W	1/22	Extending X′-theory: DPs	Ch. 7	
	F	1/24	*Conference 1*		
4	M	1/27	Testing and improving hypotheses: Binding theory	Ch. 5	
	W	1/29	Testing and improving hypotheses: Binding theory	Ch. 5	
	F	1/31	*Conference 2*		**Quiz 1**
5	M	2/3	Testing and improving hypotheses: Binding theory	Ch. 5	*(PS 1 available)*
	W	2/5	Testing and improving hypotheses: Binding theory	Ch. 17: sec. 2	
	F	2/7	*Conference 3*		**Quiz 2**
6	M	2/10	Testing and improving hypotheses: Binding theory	Ch. 17: sec. 2	
	W	2/12	Over-generation problem & theta-roles	Ch. 8	
	F	2/14	*Conference 4*		**PS 1 due**
7	M	2/17	Over-generation problem & selection	Ch. 9	
	W	2/19	Midterm exam outline		
	F	2/21	*Conference 5*		**Quiz 3**
8	M	2/24	Under-generation problem & head movement	Ch. 10	**Midterm** 18:05-19:55
	W	2/26	Under-generation problem & head movement	Ch. 10	STBIO S1/3
	F	2/28	*No conference*		
			Study break		
9	M	3/9	Under-generation problem & head movement	Ch. 10	
	W	3/11	DP movement and Case: Raising & Passive	Ch. 11	
	F	3/13	*Conference 6*		**Quiz 4**
10	M	3/16	DP movement and Case: Raising & Passive	Ch. 11	*(PS 2 available)*
	W	3/18	DP movement and Case: Raising & Control	Ch. 15: 429-439	
	F	3/20	*Conference 7*		**Quiz 5** in conference
11	M	3/23	Types of WH-movement	Ch. 12	
	W	3/25	Types of WH-movement	Ch. 12	
	F	3/27	*Conference 8*		**PS 2** due
12	M	3/30	Constraints on WH-movement	Ch. 13: sec. 2&3	
	W	4/1	Constraints on WH-movement	Ch. 13: sec. 2&3	
	F	4/3	*Conference 9*		**Quiz 6** in conference
13	M	4/6	Constraints on WH-movement	Ch. 13: sec. 2&3	
	W	4/8	Final exam outline		
	F	4/10	no class		
14	M	4/13	no class		
	T	4/14	*Conference 10* (Friday schedule)		
			Final exam: TBD		
			(Consult: https://www.mcgill.ca/exams/)		