Name of the course: Grammar and processing pressures in sentence production (seminar)

Lecturer name: Dr. Julie Fadlon

Course number:

Office hours: Tuesday, by appointment

Short course description (5-10 lines) with key words at the end of the paragraph

Speakers need to find a way to convey messages quickly and efficiently within the limitations of both their grammar and cognitive capacity.

This seminar will explore ways in which speakers take advantage of structural optionality, for example - the possibility to use the passive voice (The boy was pushed by the girl) instead of the active voice (The girl pushed the boy), to moderate processing difficulties.

We will explore ways in which these techniques are modulated by a given grammar while discussing optionality in the production of fillers-gap dependencies (e.g., relative clauses, wh-questions) in Hebrew and English.

Students will be expected to develop an original experimental research on optionality in production and will be provided with practical tools for constructing and running a behavioral experiment.

Key words:

Language production, cognitive limitations, processing pressures, grammar

Course requirements:

Attendance required yes/no

Participation: 10%

Presentation: 20%

Research development assignments: 10%

Final paper: 60%

Perquisite: Syntax B
Bibliography: