

Academic year 2023-24 (תשפ"ד)

Course title (English): Syntax

Course title (Hebrew): תחביר

Course number: 133.1.0044

Course slot: Semester A; Sunday & Wednesday; 14:00-16:00.

Lecturer: David Erschler

Lecturer's office hours and contact details:

Office hours: Monday 11:00-13:00

Room 528, Building 74

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Course description & objectives:

This course continues the Introduction to Syntax course. It provides a broader acquaintance with syntax within the framework of generative grammar. The goal is to become familiar with theoretical concepts and principles, and to develop skills in syntactic description, analysis, and argumentation. The topics to be covered include the general formalism of Minimalist syntax, fine structure of the verb phrase, properties of movement, formation of wh-questions, and locality restrictions syntactic operations are subject to.

Course requirements:

- **Attendance**

Attendance is **obligatory**.

- **Academic Honesty**

When doing home assignments, you are allowed to work together with your classmates. However, the work you submit should be written up by you on your own. For the university guidelines on academic honesty, please consult Section 4 of the following document:

https://in.bgu.ac.il/acadsec/doclib2/plagiarism_eng.pdf

Components of the grade for the course:

| Attendance | Obligatory |
|---------------------------|-------------------|
| 4 Home Assignments | 25% |
| Final exam | 75% |

The final exam is to last 2 hours; you will be required to solve any 5 problems out of the 8 on the exam sheet.

To pass the course you need to get a passing grade, i.e. at least 56, at the final exam.

Accommodations for students called up for reserve duty during the semester:

On top of the time of the reserve duty, the student is allowed to be absent from the class for up to 2 weeks (i.e., they can miss 4 more classes).

The student is allowed to submit home assignments in the 11th week of the semester. (If they are on reserve duty service in the 11th week of the semester, another date will be found.)

The student is allowed to choose the highest of the grades they received for the two attempts of the final exam.

Topics & Tentative schedule:

Week 1. Tests for movement: Detecting selection, locality of selection, expletives and idiom chunks, *there*-constructions, apparent violations of the locality of selection.

Week 2. Building trees from below: the Minimalist formalism. Passives and unaccusatives; subject movement. *Assignment 1 due.*

Week 3. Raising verbs. Arguments for two subject positions; introducing *v* head.

Week 4. Case. Transitive verbs. Ditransitives.

Week 5. Subject control. Raising to subject vs. subject control. *Assignment 2 due.*

Week 6. Object control and raising to object.

Week 7. Binding.

Week 8. Binding. (continued) *Assignment 3 due.*

Week 9. Question formation. Wh-movement. Relativised minimality. Pied-piping.

Week 10. Island constraints.

Week 11. Reserve and wrap-up. *Assignment 4 due.*