



BGU

Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

Abrahams-Curiel Department of Foreign Literatures & Linguistics

Academic year 2023-24 (תשפ"ד)

Course title (English): Syntax

Course title (Hebrew): תחביר

Course number: 133.1.0044

Course slot (semester/s, weekday/s, hours): Semester A; Sunday & Wednesday; 14:00-16:00.

Lecturer: David Erschler

Lecturer's conference hour and contact details:

Office hours: Monday 11:00-13:00

Room 528, Building 74

erschler@bgu.ac.il

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 relative clauses, 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

דרישות והרכב ציון הקורס

משקל בציון הסופי

חובה	נוכחות
15%	5 עבודות
20%	מבחן אמצע

65%

מבחן גמר

100% -

סה"כ

יש חובת מעבר מבחן גמר, כלומר, אלה שיקבלו פחות מ-56 במבחן גמר, לא יכלו לעבור את הקורס.

Topics & bibliography

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. The extended Noun Phrase; the Determiner Phrase.

Week 2. The Determiner Phrase. (continued) Building trees from below: the Minimalist formalism. Passives and unaccusatives; subject movement.

Week 3. Raising verbs. Arguments for two subject positions; introducing *v* head. *Assignment 1 due.*

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. Pre-midterm review.

Midterm

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

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

Week 10. Cyclicity. Pied-piping and P-stranding. *Assignment 4 due.*

Week 11. Island constraints.

Week 12. Relative clauses.

Week 13. Reserve and wrap-up. *Assignment 5 due.*