

Professor Barbara Vance
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Office hours:
 Tuesday, Thursday 1 - 2:30
 and by appointment

Texts:

Tallerman, Maggie. 1998. *Understanding Syntax*
 Cowper, Elizabeth. 1992. *A concise introduction to syntactic theory: the Government-Binding approach.*

Additional resources (on reserve in Main Library for other courses):

Pinker, Steven. 1994. *The Language Instinct.*
 Haegeman, Liliane. 1994. *An introduction to Government-Binding Theory. 2nd. ed.*

Goals of the course:

- to gain an understanding of some common ways in which languages are alike and different in syntactic structure
- to gain experience in analyzing syntactic data from specific languages
- to learn how to build syntactic argumentation
- to learn the basics of Chomsky's "Principles and Parameters" theory of syntax (also known as "Government and Binding")

Evaluation:

Class participation	15%
Homework	15%
Two midterms	40%
Final Exam	30%

Homework Policy:

- Some homework assignments are to be prepared for class only and others are to turn in for a grade. Both types are important for the flow of the class and for the individual progress of the students. Assignments to be graded should be written neatly or typed, with plenty of space left for my comments.
- Late homework:
 - The preparation of homework for class participation cannot be done late, of course. Preparation for class will be reflected in students' class participation grade.
 - A clear due date will be indicated for each written homework assignment and students should respect this date if at all possible. I understand, however, that occasionally circumstances conspire to make it impossible for a student to turn in good work by the deadline. If you find yourself in this situation, you should come to class on the due date and turn in what you have done so far. Indicate somewhere on the paper that you intend to turn in a better version ASAP. If I have not graded all the papers by the time you turn in the second version, I will grade the second version. (Whether or not the first version counts as well depends on how late the second version is and whether you have already taken this option during the semester.)

Schedule (subject to change)

Below are the general topics and readings to be covered each week. More specific readings from the chapters indicated, as well as exercises to be completed for discussion or to turn in, will be assigned in class. In addition to coming to class regularly and on time, please check your e-mail regularly (especially between the Thursday and Tuesday classes) for announcements or clarifications of issues that have arisen in class.

Week	Topic	Readings
1/Jan 8, 10	Introduction/Word classes	Cowper 1.1 Tallerman 1-2.2 (=up to p. 49)
2/Jan 15, 17	Grammatical categories, Clause structure	Tallerman 2.3, 3
3/Jan 22, 24	Phrase structure	Tallerman 4.1, 5; Cowper 2.1
4/Jan 29, 31	Phrase structure	Cowper, 2.2-2.7
5/Feb 5 Feb 7	Review Midterm 1	
6/Feb 12, 14	Argument structure	Cowper 3-4
7/Feb 19, 21	Word order, Case, and Agreement	skim Tallerman 4.2, read 6.1
8/Feb 26, 28	Word order, Case, and Agreement	Tallerman, rest of 6
9/Mar 5, 7	Movement rules	Tallerman 7.1

SPRING BREAK

10/Mar 19 Mar 21	Review Midterm 2	
11/Mar 26, 28	NP-movement	Cowper 5
12/Apr 2, 4	Government and Case	Cowper 6
13/Apr 9, 11	Government and Case, WH-movement	Cowper 7
14/Apr 16, 18	WH-movement	Cowper 7
15/Apr 23, 25	Binding	Cowper 10

Tuesday, April 30 5-7 PM FINAL EXAM