LT5402: SYNTAX AND MORPHOLOGY

Effective Term
Semester A 2025/26

Part I Course Overview

Course Title
Syntax and Morphology

Subject Code
LT - Linguistics and Translation
Course Number
5402

Academic Unit
Linguistics and Translation (LT)

College/School
College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (CH)

Course Duration
One Semester

Credit Units
3

Level
P5, P6 - Postgraduate Degree

Medium of Instruction
English

Medium of Assessment
English

Prerequisites
Nil

Precursors
Nil

Equivalent Courses
CTL5402 Syntax and Morphology

Exclusive Courses
Nil

Part II Course Details

Abstract

The course aims to expose students to morphological and syntactic structures of natural language. They will learn how to observe, describe and explain syntactic and morphological phenomena, and apply the analytic skills acquired in class to discover new solutions for new data.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

	CILOs	Weighting (if app.)	DEC-A1	DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1	Observe and describe the surface and underlying structures of words, phrases and clauses in terms of tree diagrams and labelled bracketing.	20	x	x	
2	Analyse the surface and underlying structures of words, phrases and clauses in terms of tree diagrams and labelled bracketing.	20	x	x	x
3	Explain the data by the grammatical rules and principles	30	x	x	
4	Apply the analytic skills learned in class to new data in exercises.	30		x	x

A1: Attitude
Develop an attitude of discovery/innovation/creativity, as demonstrated by students possessing a strong sense of curiosity, asking questions actively, challenging assumptions or engaging in inquiry together with teachers.

A2: Ability
Develop the ability/skill needed to discover/innovate/create, as demonstrated by students possessing critical thinking skills to assess ideas, acquiring research skills, synthesizing knowledge across disciplines or applying academic knowledge to real-life problems.

A3: Accomplishments
Demonstrate accomplishment of discovery/innovation/creativity through producing /constructing creative works/new artefacts, effective solutions to real-life problems or new processes.

Learning and Teaching Activities (LTAs)

	LTAs	Brief Description	CILO No.	Hours/week (if applicable)
1	1	Lecture - Students will gradually gain a solid foundation for doing theoretical syntax and morphology.	1, 2, 3, 4	
2	2	Individual Reading - Students will read lecture and tutorial notes and additional literature proposed by the instructor.	1, 2, 3, 4	
3	3	Exercises - Students practice applying concepts introduced in the lectures to the analysis of new data.	1, 2, 3, 4	

Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

	ATs	CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks ("-" for nil entry)	Allow Use of GenAI?
1	Assignments - Students have two weeks to turn in the assignments on analysis of new data.	1, 2, 3, 4	30	Students can use GenAI tools to brainstorm, gather information, solve problems, format references, and edit language. Students should give proper acknowledgment to all the content from GenAI tools that they incorporated into the assignment and keep a journal of their GenAI conversations. Students should not present texts generated or translated by GenAI tools as their own original work.	Yes
2	Mid-term quiz - Students demonstrate their understanding of the material discussed in the first half of the semester and apply their analytic skills in addressing issues and solving problems with new data.	1, 2, 3, 4	30	This is a summative assessment task.	No

Continuous Assessment (%)

60

Examination (%)

40

Examination Duration (Hours)

2

Assessment Rubrics (AR)

Assessment Task

Assignments (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

Criterion

Demonstration of understanding of the nature of the problems and ability to apply solutions for old problems to new ones.

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Demonstration of high understanding of the nature of the problems and ability to apply solutions for old problems to new ones.

Good

(B+, B, B-) Demonstration of significant understanding of the nature of the problems and ability to apply solutions for old problems to new ones.

Fair

(C+, C, C-) Demonstration of moderate understanding of the nature of the problems and ability to apply solutions for old problems to new ones.

Marginal

(D) Demonstration of basic understanding of the nature of the problems and ability to apply solutions for old problems to new ones.

Failure

(F) Demonstration of little to no understanding of the nature of the problems and ability to apply solutions for old problems to new ones.

Assessment Task

Mid-term quiz (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

Criterion

Demonstration of understanding of the key concepts in syntax introduced in class and ability to solve novel syntax problems.

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Demonstration of high understanding of the key concepts in syntax introduced in class and ability to solve novel syntax problems.

Good

(B+, B, B-) Demonstration of significant understanding of the key concepts in syntax introduced in class and ability to solve novel syntax problems.

Fair

(C+, C, C-) Demonstration of moderate understanding of the key concepts in syntax introduced in class and ability to solve novel syntax problems.

Marginal

(D) Demonstration of basic understanding of the key concepts in syntax introduced in class and ability to solve novel syntax problems.

Failure

(F) Demonstration of little to no understanding of the key concepts in syntax introduced in class and ability to solve novel syntax problems.

Assessment Task

Final exam (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

Criterion

Demonstration of understanding of the key concepts in syntax introduced in class and ability to solve novel syntax problems.

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Demonstration of high understanding of the key concepts in syntax introduced in the entire class and ability to solve novel syntax problems.

Good

(B+, B, B-) Demonstration of significant understanding of the key concepts in syntax introduced in the entire class and ability to solve novel syntax problems.

Fair

(C+, C, C-) Demonstration of moderate understanding of the key concepts in syntax introduced in the entire class and ability to solve novel syntax problems.

Marginal

(D) Demonstration of basic understanding of the key concepts in syntax introduced in the entire class and ability to solve novel syntax problems.

Failure

(F) Demonstration of little to no understanding of the key concepts in syntax introduced in the entire class and ability to solve novel syntax problems.

Assessment Task

Assignments (for students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

Criterion

Demonstration of understanding of the nature of the problems and ability to apply solutions for old problems to new ones.

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Demonstration of excellent understanding of the nature of the problems and ability to apply solutions for old problems to new ones.

Good

(B+, B) Demonstration of good understanding of the nature of the problems and ability to apply solutions for old problems to new ones.

Marginal

(B-, C+, C) Demonstration of marginal understanding of the nature of the problems and ability to apply solutions for old problems to new ones.

Failure

(F) Little to no demonstration of understanding of the nature of the problems and ability to apply solutions for old problems to new ones.

Assessment Task

Mid-term quiz (for students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

Criterion

Demonstration of understanding of the key concepts in syntax introduced in class and ability to solve novel syntax problems.

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Demonstration of excellent understanding of the key concepts in syntax introduced in class and ability to solve novel syntax problems.

Good

(B+, B) Demonstration of good understanding of the key concepts in syntax introduced in class and ability to solve novel syntax problems.

Marginal

(B-, C+, C) Demonstration of marginal understanding of the key concepts in syntax introduced in class and ability to solve novel syntax problems.

Failure

(F) Little to no demonstration of understanding of the key concepts in syntax introduced in class and ability to solve novel syntax problems.

Assessment Task

Final exam (for students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

Criterion

Demonstration of understanding of the key concepts in syntax introduced in class and ability to solve novel syntax problems.

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Demonstration of excellent understanding of the key concepts in syntax introduced in the entire class and ability to solve novel syntax problems.

Good

(B+, B) Demonstration of good understanding of the key concepts in syntax introduced in the entire class and ability to solve novel syntax problems.

Marginal

(B-, C+, C) Demonstration of marginal understanding of the key concepts in syntax introduced in the entire class and ability to solve novel syntax problems.

Failure

(F) Little to no demonstration of understanding of the key concepts in syntax introduced in the entire class and ability to solve novel syntax problems.

Part III Other Information

Keyword Syllabus

Basic Notions: Syntax and morphology as components of grammar, competence and performance, infinite rule-governed creativity, levels of adequacy, universal and particular grammar, principles and parameters.
Structure and Formation of Words: Morphemes, morphological features, derivation, inflection, compounding, morphological structures.
Lexicon: Categorization and subcategorization, thematic roles, selectional restrictions.
Structure: Noun phrases, verb phrases, adjective phrases, prepositional phrases, inflections, complementizers, types of clauses.
Syntactic Rules: Question formation, relativization, topicalization, passivization, raising, head movement.

Syntactic Principles: structural relations, structural conditions on licensiing negative polarity items and binding, constraints on movement.

Reading List

Compulsory Readings

	Title
1	Poole, Geoffrey. 2002. Syntactic Theory. Hampshire, NY: Palgrave.
2	Lecture notes and in-class exercises.

Additional Readings

	Title
1	Haegeman, Liliane. 1994. Introduction to Government and Binding Theory. Second edition. Oxford: Blackwell.
2	What is morphology? by Mark Aronoff and Kirsten Fuderman. 2011. Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell.
3	Adger, David. 2003. Core syntax: A minimalist approach. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
4	Contemporary linguistics : An introduction / edited by William O'Grady, Michael Dobrovolsky, Francis Katamba. 1997. London/New York: Longman.