

LT6423: ADVANCED TOPICS IN SYNTAX

Effective Term

Semester A 2025/26

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

Advanced Topics in Syntax

Subject Code

LT - Linguistics and Translation

Course Number

6423

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

LT5402 Syntax and Morphology or special approval by the Programme Leader

Precursors

Nil

Equivalent Courses

Nil

Exclusive Courses

LT8423 Topics in Syntax

Part II Course Details

Abstract

This is a seminar type course. It aims to develop students' ability through case study, particularly in the following respects: (i) acquisition of in-depth knowledge of current issues in syntax, (ii) critical review of relevant literature, (iii) formulation and verification of hypotheses/theories, and (iv) academic argumentation.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs		Weighting (if DEC-A1 app.)		DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1	Describe and discuss current issues in syntax		x		
2	Critically review relevant literature			x	
3	formulate hypotheses/theories				x
4	Verify the hypotheses				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		Lectures and discussions	1	
2		Take home assignments and reading	2	
3		Analyse given data and formulate hypotheses through in-class assignments	3	
4		Critical review and verification of existing hypotheses	4	

Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

	ATs	CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks ("- for nil entry)	Allow Use of GenAI?
1	Class participation - Students are expected to participate actively in class.	1	10	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	Take home assignments and reading - 2 take home assignments	2	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

3	Review paper or research paper - Students are expected to write a research paper or a critical review of a chosen topic.	4	60	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
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Continuous Assessment (%)

100

Assessment Rubrics (AR)**Assessment Task**

Tutorial participation on in-class assignments/exercises (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

Criterion

critical and analytical ability; original thinking in formulating hypothesis; grasp of theoretical concepts; and degree of participation.

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Excellent ability to analyze; strong evidence of original thinking in formulating hypotheses; superior grasp of theoretical concepts related to the topics under discussion; zealous participation.

Good

(B+, B, B-) Evidence of critical and analytical ability; evidence of ability to formulate hypotheses; good grasp of theoretical concepts related to the topics under discussion; active participation.

Fair

(C+, C, C-) Evidence of satisfactory grasp of theoretical concepts related to the topics under discussion; satisfactory participation.

Marginal

(D) Ability to follow the theoretical concepts related to the topics under discussion in spite of some difficulty; satisfactory participation.

Failure

(F) Little or no evidence of familiarity with the theoretical concepts related to the topics under discussion; insufficient participation.

Assessment Task

Take home assignment(s) (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

Criterion

Degree of knowledge in relevant topics; evidence of logical thinking; and analyses with original thinking.

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Evidence of excellent knowledge in relevant topics; strong evidence of logical thinking. analyses with original thinking.

Good

(B+, B, B-) Evidence of adequate knowledge in relevant topics; good and logical analyses.

Fair

(C+, C, C-) Evidence of the ability to understand the relevant topics; satisfactory analyses.

Marginal

(D) Ability to apply knowledge in the assignments in spite of difficulty; analyses with inaccuracy.

Failure

(F) Very limited knowledge of the topics in question; totally incorrect analyses.

Assessment Task

Review paper or research paper (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

Criterion

Degree of knowledge in relevant topics; and evidence of logical thinking.

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Evidence of excellent knowledge in relevant topics; strong evidence of logical thinking.

Good

(B+, B, B-) Evidence of adequate knowledge in relevant topics; evidence of logical thinking.

Fair

(C+, C, C-) Evidence of basic knowledge in relevant topics.

Marginal

(D) Ability to apply basic knowledge in writing a review paper or research paper on a chosen topic.

Failure

(F) Demonstrate very limited ability in applying basic knowledge to write a review paper or research paper on a chosen topic.

Assessment Task

Tutorial participation on in-class assignments/exercises (for students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

Criterion

critical and analytical ability; original thinking in formulating hypothesis; grasp of theoretical concepts; and degree of participation

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Excellent ability to analyze; strong evidence of original thinking in formulating hypotheses; superior grasp of theoretical concepts related to the topics under discussion; zealous participation.

Good

(B+, B) Evidence of critical and analytical ability; evidence of ability to formulate hypotheses; good grasp of theoretical concepts related to the topics under discussion; active participation.

Marginal

(B, C+, C) Evidence of satisfactory or basic grasp of theoretical concepts related to the topics under discussion; satisfactory participation.

Failure

(F) Little or no evidence of familiarity with the theoretical concepts related to the topics under discussion; insufficient participation.

Assessment Task

Take home assignment(s) (for students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

Criterion

Degree of knowledge in relevant topics; evidence of logical thinking; and analyses with original thinking.

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Evidence of excellent knowledge in relevant topics; strong evidence of logical thinking. analyses with original thinking.

Good

(B+, B) Evidence of adequate knowledge in relevant topics; good and logical analyses.

Marginal

(B-, C+, C) Evidence of demonstrating basic ability to understand the relevant topics; satisfactory analyses.

Failure

(F) Very limited knowledge of the topics in question; totally incorrect analyses.

Assessment Task

Review paper or research paper (for students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

Criterion

Degree of knowledge in relevant topics; and evidence of logical thinking.

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Evidence of excellent knowledge in relevant topics; strong evidence of logical thinking.

Good

(B+, B) Evidence of adequate knowledge in relevant topics; evidence of logical thinking.

Marginal

(B-, C+, C) Evidence of basic knowledge in relevant topics.

Failure

(F) Demonstrate very limited ability in applying basic knowledge to write a review paper or research paper on a chosen topic.

Part III Other Information

Keyword Syllabus

Topics will vary according to the interests and specialization of the instructor. The domain of study will be based on a relevant, coherent body of published literature which has played or is currently playing a role in the development of theories in syntax. The seminar will typically consist of an introduction to and critical review of the literature, comparison and evaluation of alternative hypotheses and theories, and data analysis.

Reading List

Compulsory Readings

Title	
1	Carnie, Andrew. (2013) Syntax: A Generative Introduction. Blackwell Publishing, Everaert and van Riemsdijk ed., (2006) The Blackwell Companion to Syntax. Blackwell.
2	Babby, Leonard H. (2009) The Syntax of Argument Structure, Cambridge University Press.

Additional Readings

Title	
1	Freidin R. and Howard Lasnik ed., (2006) Syntax: Critical Concepts in Linguistics. Routledge
2	Freidin R. (1992) Foundations of Generative Syntax. The MIT Press.
3	Haegeman L. (1994) Introduction to Government and Binding Theory. 2nd edition, Blackwell.
4	Haegeman Liliane and Jacqueline Gueron (1999) English Grammar: A Generative Perspective. Blackwell Publishing.
5	Huang, James C.-T., Audrey Li, and Yafei Li (2009) The Syntax of Chinese. Cambridge University Press.
6	Online resources