

ENG 575: COMPARATIVE SYNTAX

Linguistics Section, Department of English Studies, University of Cyprus

Fall Semester 2008: Tuesdays & Fridays, 13.30-15.00 — Room A 112

<http://www.punksinscience.org/kleanthes/courses/CS>

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DESCRIPTION

The aim of this course is to apply our knowledge of syntactic theorizing to languages other than English — to compare the syntax of languages, if you like. We will start off lightly by revising our current state of syntactic theory and examining basic sets of data relevant to the components addressed (such as Case Theory or head-, DP- and *wh*-movement). The second part of the course will address more specific phenomena cross-linguistically in an attempt to discover linguistic systematicity and variation.

ASSESSMENT

Regular attendance is strongly advised! Besides the class lectures, there will be:

1. some homework **exercises**, partially taken from the textbook (20%)
2. one in-class **presentation** reporting on a topic of your choice (30%)
3. one course **paper** investigating a phenomenon of your choice (50%)
4. presence, and preferably **participation**, in class throughout (±x...)

The **exercises** are mostly based on those from the **textbook**, some of which we'll also go through in class. This will be during the first half of the course, when we use the book (the same as in last semester's MASOE). Later, we might tackle some **more interesting** ones...

More importantly, however — and this time for real (those of you who were there, compare with last semester's elective!): I want you to **start thinking early on** about a possible **little research project** for you to investigate throughout the semester. You should **present it in class** to share your ideas and motivation, and then **write it up** on the basis of everyone's feedback. (Of course, you can write about a completely different topic, too.)

NB: You should discuss your project idea with me first to get it approved — by October 10.

Your presentation should **not be too long**. The idea is to fit them all in a Student Workshop (as per syllabus, more information coming soon). The length of your paper depends on what you do, something we will discuss in class. There will be an **easy option** (summary/review/exercise) and a more **interesting option** (your own research).

READING

In the past I used to say: **I can't stress enough how important it will be that you read at home!** However, experience has shown that students don't read anything beyond the absolute necessary, if they read at all. But if you're taking your status — and unique opportunity — of a university student seriously, **I put some books for short-term loan at the library.** (These can be found on overleaf, jointly with readings for my other course.) If anyone is interested in **scientific epistemology** (history and philosophy of science), a very interesting book is Cedric Boeckx's *Linguistic Minimalism* (OUP, 2006, P158.28.B64 2006).

NB: Make sure you make good use of my office hours: If you don't come, I can't help you!

The book we'll be using, at least at the beginning, is the one we've had for MASOE last semester. Your own copy will be useful, but not crucial (Moufflon might have some left):

Andrew Carnie. 2007. *Syntax*. Oxford: Blackwell.

PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is a serious offence! (See the factsheet handed out in the first class for a summary of what plagiarism is, and why it is so bad.) **If I detect cheating or plagiarism in any way, I will report you to the Board of the Department of English Studies — as a consequence, you automatically fail this course and face more severe punishment which can even lead to expulsion from university.** So, be honest and work honest.

SYLLABUS

The following is a **projected course of events**. Ideally, we'll cover the textbook material a bit quicker (and pick up more theory along the way), giving us more room for "real topics".

Week 1 (September 9)	Course introduction and overview (re-read Carnie: chap. 1-2)
Week 2 (September 16)	Foreign Language Data (Carnie: chap. 3; G3, G5–7)
Week 3 (September 23)	Structural Relations (Carnie: chap. 4; G15–16, C3)
Week 4 (September 30)	Binding Theory (Carnie: chap. 5; C3–5)
Week 5 (October 7)	X-bar Theory (Carnie: chap. 6; G3, G5–6) & chap. 7; C1)
Week 6 (October 14)	The Lexicon (Carnie: chap. 8; G2, G4, C4–5)
Week 7 (October 21)	Head Movement (Carnie: chap. 9; G1–4, G7, C2–5)
Week 8 (October 28)	DP Movement (Carnie: chap. 10; G1–5, G9)
Week 9 (November 4)	<i>Wh</i> -Movement (Carnie: chap. 11; G3, G6, C1–3)
Week 10 (November 11)	More Stuff (Carnie: chap. 12; G1–2 & chap. 13; G2, G6)
Week 11 (November 18)	Null Subjects & <i>pro</i> -Drop (suggestion)
Week 12 (November 25)	Cliticization (suggestion)
Week 13 (December 2)	Verb Second (suggestion)
— Reading Week —	Student Workshop (details to follow)
— December —	final paper (exact due date to follow)

– BOOKS ON RESERVE FOR SHORT-TERM LOAN –
ENG 235: Morphology and Syntax of English (Fall 2008)

1. Adger, D. 2003. *Core Syntax: A Minimalist Approach*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
*P295.A34 2003
2. Aronoff, M. & K. Fudeman. 2005. *What Is Morphology?* Oxford: Blackwell.
*P241.A699 2005
3. Baltin, M.R. & C. Collins (eds.). 2001. *The Handbook of Contemporary Syntactic Theory*. Oxford: Blackwell.
P291.H246 2003
4. Bauer, L. 2003. *Introducing Linguistic Morphology*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press [second edition].
*P241.B38 2003
5. Boeckx, C. (ed.). 2006. *Minimalist Essays*. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.
P158.28.M566 2006
6. Carnie, A. 2006. *Syntax*. Oxford: Blackwell [second edition].
P291.C33 2007
7. Carstairs-McCarthy, A. 2002. *An Introduction to English Morphology: Words and Their Structure*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press.
*PE1171.C37 2002
8. Chomsky, N. 1995. *The Minimalist Program*. Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press.
P158.28.C48 1995
9. Haegeman, L. 1994. *Introduction to Government & Binding Theory*. Oxford: Blackwell [second edition].
P158.2.H34 1994
10. Haegeman, L. & J. Guéron. 2000. *English Grammar*. Oxford: Blackwell.
*PE1106.H27 1999
11. Harley, H. 2006. *English Words: A Linguistic Introduction*. Oxford: Blackwell.
*PE1175.H37 2006
12. Hornstein, N., J. Nunes & K.K. Grohmann. 2005. *Understanding Minimalism*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
*P158.28.H67 2005
13. Lasnik, H. 1999. *Minimalist Analysis*. Oxford: Blackwell.
*P158.28.L37 1999
14. Lasnik, H. & J. Uriagereka with C. Boeckx. 2005. *A Course in Minimalist Syntax*. Oxford: Blackwell.
P291.L35 2005
15. Radford, A. 2004. *Minimalist Syntax and the Syntax of English*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
*PE1361.R335 2004

– BOOKS ON RESERVE FOR SHORT-TERM LOAN –

ENG 575: Comparative Syntax (Fall 2008)

1. Adger, D. 2003. *Core Syntax: A Minimalist Approach*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
*P295.A34 2003
2. Belletti, A. (ed). 2004. *Structures and Beyond: The Cartography of Syntactic Structures*, vol. 3. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
P291.S695 2004
3. Boeckx, C. (ed.). 2006. *Agreement Systems*. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.
P299.A35A36 2006
4. Boeckx, C. 2007. *Aspects of the Syntax of Agreement*. London: Routledge.
TO ARRIVE SHORTLY
5. Cinque, G. 1999. *Adverbs and Functional Heads*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
P284.C56 1999
6. Cinque, G. (ed). 2002. *Functional Structure in DP and IP: The Cartography of Syntactic Structures*, vol. 1. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
P291.F814 2002
7. Cinque, G. (ed). 2006. *Restructuring and Functional Heads: The Cartography of Syntactic Structures*, vol. 4. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
P291.C56 2006
8. Cinque, G. & R.S. Kayne (eds). 2005. *The Oxford Handbook of Comparative Syntax*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
P291.O95 2005
9. Culicover, P.W. 1999. *Syntactic Nuts*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
P291.C798 1999
10. Grohmann, K.K. 2003. *Prolific Domains: On the Anti-Locality of Movement Dependencies*. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.
P291.G698 2003
11. Haegeman, L. (ed) 1997. *The New Comparative Syntax*. London: Longman.
P291.N48 1997
12. Nunes, J. 2004. *Linearization of Chains and Sideward Movement*. Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press.
P151.N86 2004
13. Rizzi, L. (ed). 2004. *The Structure of CP and IP: The Cartography of Syntactic Structures*, vol. 2. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
P297.S77 2004
14. Uriagereka, J. 1998. *Rhyme and Reason*. Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press.
*P291.U75 1998
15. Weibelhuth, G. (ed.). 1998. *Government and Binding Theory and the Minimalist Program*. Oxford: Blackwell.
*P291.G68 1995