

Linguistics 112 - Introduction to Syntax, Fall 2018

Section 1: Code 42746. San José State University, Department of Linguistics and Language Development

Instructor:	Kevin Moore
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Office Hours:	Wednesday 4:20 to 5:20 p.m.; Thursday 11 to 12 noon, and by appointment Monday through Thursday.
Class Days/Time:	M/W 9:00 a.m. to 10:15.
Classroom:	BBC 125
Prerequisites:	Upper division standing; Linguistics 101 Intro to Linguistics

Other Contact Information

Phone me in my office all day Monday/Wednesday until 5:15 p.m., or Tuesday/Thursday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.; leave a message if I don't answer. Email me at other times. Use my personal email (kevin.moore@sjsu.edu); don't email me on canvas. If you're not available during my office hours, we can make an appointment for another time. My box is in the Linguistics and Language Development department office in Clark Hall 473.

The Course Webpage

Course materials, such as syllabus, handouts, lecture slides, assignment instructions, can be found on Canvas. Log in using your Student ID number and password for MySJSU. Once you log in, you should be able to view this course, as well other courses using this system, in the Courses pull-down menu. (The helpdesk phone number is 408-924-2377)

Course Description

This course introduces students to basic syntactic phenomena and ways in which linguists have approached them. The aim of the course is to lead students to view language facts, which are intuitive to native speakers, in a way that allows them to reflect objectively on the content of that intuitive knowledge. Students will become familiar with the basic concepts of syntax and will be introduced to the principles and tools of syntactic analysis, which allow linguists to unravel the grammatical systems of human languages. In this introduction, students will also become acquainted with the typological range of syntactic phenomena found in human languages that linguists seek to describe. This course is a prerequisite for more advanced courses in syntactic theory.

Catalog Description: Introduction to the study of sentence structure: Syntactic constructions; constituent structure; grammatical relations; dependency relations; problems in syntactic analysis; formal systems for describing syntactic structure; typological range of syntactic phenomena. (3 Units)

Required Texts/Readings

Textbook

Payne, Thomas E. 2006. Exploring language structure: A student's guide. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press (ISBN: 978-0-521-67150-7) The textbook is available at the Spartan Bookstore or at internet retailers.

Other Required Reading

Tallerman, Maggie. 2011. *Understanding syntax*. New York: Taylor & Francis. Ch. 4

Web Resources

Linguistic terms

Do you have trouble deciphering a linguistic term? Check this site for definitions and clarifications: <http://www-01.sil.org/linguistics/GlossaryOfLinguisticTerms/Index.htm>

Tree diagrams

To draw constituent structure tree diagrams neatly, use this online resource: <http://ironcreek.net/phpsyntaxtree/>

World Atlas of Language Structures

This site is a must-see for all linguists. Interfaced with GoogleMaps, it gives you a picture of the distribution of various linguistic phenomena in the world's languages. <http://www.wals.info/>

Electronic library

This resource can give you access to many e-books.

<http://site.ebrary.com.libaccess.sjlibrary.org/lib/sjsu/home.action?force=1>

Library Liaison

Toby Matoush is the SJSU library liaison for linguistics. You can reach her by email (Toby.Matoush@sjsu.edu) (preferred) for any questions you may have regarding library sources. Her phone is (408) 808-2096.

Summary of Course Requirements and Percentages of Final Grade

Table 1: Requirements, Percentages, and Learning outcomes

Assignment	Learning Outcomes	Grades
Homework Problems 1	LO1	2%
Homework Problems 2	LO1	2%
Homework Problems 3	LO2	2%
Homework Problems 4	LO3	2%
Homework Problems 5	LO4, LO5	2%
Homework Problems 6	LO6, LO7, LO8	2%
Homework Problems 7	LO9, LO10	2%
Homework Problems 8	LO10, LO11	2%
Project 1	LO1, LO2, LO3, LO12	22%
Project 2	LO9, LO10, LO12	22%
Midterm exam	LO1, LO3, LO4, LO5, LO6	15%
Final exam (12/12/2018; 7:15 to 9:00 a.m.)	LO7, LO8, LO9, LO10, LO11	25%

Grading Policy

On your assignments, papers, and exams your grade will be stated as a percentage. That percentage will be weighted for the value of the assignment. For example, if you got a 100 on the midterm, that would count as 15 points towards your ultimate total; if you got a 90, that would count as 90% of 15 (or $0.9 \times 15 = 13.5$ points). To calculate your grade, add up the points for each assignment. For example if you got 100 on each assignment you would add in each of the numbers on the right in the table above; i.e. $2+2+2+2+2+2+2+2+22+22+15+25=100$. The determination of grades based on points earned will depend on how well the class as a whole does. The table below gives the **approximate expected** point-values of each grade. Possible grades are “A” through “F”. The lowest passing grade is “D-”.

Figuring out Approximate Grades From Total Percentages in “Course Requirements” above

Table 2: Grades and Percentages

A	95-100%	B	82-86%	C	70-74%	D	59-63%
A-	90-94%	B-	79-81%	C-	66-69%	D-	55-58%
B+	87-89%	C+	75-78%	D+	64-65%	F	below 55%

Course Requirements and Assignments

SJSU classes are designed such that for students to be successful, they have to spend **at least** forty-five hours for each unit of credit (normally three hours per unit per week), including preparing for class, participating in course activities, completing assignments, and so on. More details about student workload can be found in [University Policy S12-3](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf>.

Classes will consist of:

- *Lectures and discussion based on readings* - You are expected to complete the reading assignments ahead of time and contribute to the discussion on the topic of the day (See Schedule for Reading Assignments). Lecture slides and other supplemental material will be available on Canvas. Homework problems will be assigned almost every week – These assignments will provide you with the practice you need in analyzing syntactic structure and with comprehending various syntactic concepts. The assignments must be typewritten and must be turned in as hardcopy to me by the due dates (See Schedule for Written Assignments). We will also work on linguistic problems/exercises in class.
- *Syntactic Argumentation Project* - This project will allow you to demonstrate your ability to provide a constituent structure analysis of given complex sentences using appropriate argumentation. The final draft is evaluated for completeness, accuracy, depth of analysis, and elegance of presentation. The project must be typewritten and must be turned in as hardcopy to me by the due date. (I will give you the complete assignment with full details later.)
- *Syntactic Structures Project* - In this project you will practice and develop your ability to analyze syntactic structures in a language other than English. I will give you some data and you will apply the concepts and methods of analysis that we study after the midterm involving chapters 8, 9, and 10 of the Payne textbook. (I will give you the complete assignment with full details later.)
- *Midterm exam* – This will test your knowledge of basic morphological, lexical, and syntactic concepts required for the study of syntactic structure. It will test your ability to determine relations among various lexical items and represent constituent structure. It will consist of short data-analysis problems, diagrams for representing constituent structure, and explanations of your answers.
- *Final exam* – A final exam will test your knowledge of the basic concepts required for the study of syntactic structure in general and, more specifically, those relating to the study of grammatical relations, and your ability to

distinguish various syntactic constructions and clause types. It will consist of short data-analysis problems and your explanations of your answers. The final is cumulative.

Program Learning Objectives (PLOs) addressed by this course

This course addresses the following broad goals and specific objectives of the Linguistics Program: (The complete set of [BA Linguistics Program Goals and Student Learning Objectives](http://www.sjsu.edu/linguistics/programs/linguistics/ba_linguistics/goals_ba_linguistics/) can be found at http://www.sjsu.edu/linguistics/programs/linguistics/ba_linguistics/goals_ba_linguistics/)

Goal 1: To transmit knowledge of the structure and function of language and its use and change in various cultural and social settings.

PLO 1D: Analyze sentence structure in any language in terms of grammatical relations and constituent structure, and recognize the typological diversity of syntactic phenomena.

Goal 2: To help students develop critical thinking skills, analytical skills, and reading, writing and research skills.

PLO 2A: Analyze phonetic, phonological, morphological, syntactic, semantic, and historical linguistics data.

PLO 2B: Critically evaluate competing approaches to the analysis of linguistic data.

PLO 2C: Use library and electronic research sources effectively.

PLO 2D: Use English reading and writing skills effectively to report on research or problem analysis.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

Upon successful completion of this course, students will have the necessary knowledge and tools to:

CLO1: Distinguish types of linguistic expression: lexical, morphological, or syntactic.

CLO2: Perform basic morphological analysis to given data from typologically diverse languages.

CLO3: Use morphological and distributional criteria to classify words into various lexical categories.

CLO4: Determine the strategy a language uses for coding grammatical relations (word order, case marking, and/or verb agreement) and specify the alignment of grammatical relations of subject, object, and oblique object to thematic relations in sentences.

CLO5: Identify predicate, argument, and modifier relations in sentences; recognize and classify dependencies into unilateral, bilateral, or coordinate.

CLO6: Represent the constituent structure of simple and complex sentences using labeled tree diagrams and write simple phrase structure grammars.

CLO7: Analyze predicates in terms of valence relations; identify types of marking of dependencies (head-marking and dependent-marking) and analyze valence-adjusting syntactic constructions.

CLO8: Analyze multi-clause constructions recognizing patterns of complementation, relativization, and adverbial modification.

CLO9: Argue in favor of proposed analyses providing empirical evidence.

CLO10: Report on the analysis of linguistic data using appropriate language.

Classroom Protocol

- Cellphone use is prohibited in class. Please do not let your phone ring. Don't text or anything like that.

- Students are expected to complete each assigned reading before the class for which it is listed, to be prepared to discuss its contents, and to participate fully in work in class. Students who attend all classes on time are better prepared to succeed.
- Exams may not be taken at other than their scheduled times, except in case of emergency or religious observance. Any such case must be documented in writing by the appropriate authorities. If an exam is scheduled on a religious holiday or you have a legitimate conflict, please let me know in advance.
- Each assignment must be the original work of the student who turns it in. No student may collaborate with anyone on any written document related to this class, or take any words from any source without acknowledging it in a clear and obvious way. You may discuss homework assignments and projects with your classmates, but you may not collaborate on any document related to the homework or project. For example you cannot collaborate on notes related to your discussions. The reason is that if you were to include an item from these notes on a homework or exam, that would be **plagiarism** (see below). Your assignments must be entirely your work, submitted for credit to this class only. Do not share your assignment with anyone before they are due. If you use outside material, you must clearly indicate that it is someone else's work, and give the source. **Plagiarism has serious consequences; for example, you can get an F in the course.**
- All assignments and papers must be typewritten (i.e. machine-printed).
- **Hardcopy** of assignments and papers must be turned in by the due date. Any late work will receive a substantial penalty.
- If you miss a class it is your responsibility to contact me or a fellow student so that you can find out what you missed.

Dropping and Adding

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drop, grade forgiveness, etc. Refer to the current semester's [Catalog Policies](http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html) section at <http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html>. Add/drop deadlines can be found on the [current academic calendar](http://www.sjsu.edu/academic_programs/calendars/academic_calendar/) web page located at http://www.sjsu.edu/academic_programs/calendars/academic_calendar/. The [Late Drop Policy](http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy/) is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy/>. Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for dropping classes.

Information about the latest changes and news is available at the [Advising Hub](http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/>.

University Policies

Academic integrity

Students should know that the University's [Academic Integrity Policy](http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/download/judicial_affairs/Academic_Integrity_Policy_S07-2.pdf) is available at http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/download/judicial_affairs/Academic_Integrity_Policy_S07-2.pdf. Your own commitment to learning, as evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University and the University's integrity policy, require you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. The [Student Conduct and Ethical Development website](http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/judicial_affairs/index.html) is available at http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/judicial_affairs/index.html.

Academic Integrity Statement from the Office of Judicial Affairs:

"Your own commitment to learning, as evidenced by your enrollment at San José State University, and the University's Academic Integrity Policy requires you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the Office of Judicial affairs." The policy on academic integrity can be found at http://sa.sjsu.edu/download/judicial_affairs/Academic_Integrity_Policy_S04-12.pdf (The size of the document is about 456 KB.)

Statement on plagiarism:

Plagiarism is presenting someone else's work as your own in exchange for course credit. Even one plagiarized sentence can earn you an F, even if you do it by mistake.

It is not always easy to recognize whether you are legitimately citing the work of others or whether you have “crossed the line” into plagiarism. To become acquainted with what plagiarism is and how to avoid it, the following SJSU website offers definitions, policies, and links to useful websites offering guidelines in plagiarism prevention. www.sjlibrary.org/services/literacy/info_comp/plagiarism.htm

Students who are caught cheating will be reported to the Judicial Affairs Officer of the University, as prescribed by Academic Senate Policy S04-12.

If you would like to include in your assignment any material you have submitted, or plan to submit for another class, please note that SJSU’s Academic Policy F06-1 requires approval of instructors.

Campus Policy in Compliance with the American Disabilities Act

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. Presidential Directive 97-03 requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the DRC (Disability Resource Center) to establish a record of their disability.

Linguistics Tutor

If you need assistance with the concepts and methods we are studying in this class, you can work with the linguistics tutor. (I will provide more information on the tutor later.)

Student Technology Resources

Computer labs for student use are available in the Academic Success Center located on the 1st floor of Clark Hall and on the 2nd floor of the Student Union. Additional computer labs may be available in your department/college. Computers are also available in the Martin Luther King Library.

Learning Assistance Resource Center

The Learning Assistance Resource Center (LARC) is located in Room 600 in the Student Services Center. It is designed to assist students in the development of their full academic potential and to motivate them to become self-directed learners. The center provides support services, such as skills assessment, individual or group tutorials, subject advising, learning assistance, summer academic preparation and basic skills development. The LARC website is located at <http://www.sjsu.edu/larc/>.

SJSU Writing Center

The SJSU Writing Center is located in Room 126 in Clark Hall. It is staffed by professional instructors and upper-division or graduate-level writing specialists from each of the seven SJSU colleges. Our writing specialists have met a rigorous GPA requirement, and they are well trained to assist all students at all levels within all disciplines to become better writers. The Writing Center website is located at <http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter/>.

Peer Mentor Center

The Peer Mentor Center is located on the 1st floor of Clark Hall in the Academic Success Center. The Peer Mentor Center is staffed with Peer Mentors who excel in helping students manage university life, tackling problems that range from academic challenges to interpersonal struggles. On the road to graduation, Peer Mentors are navigators, offering “roadside assistance” to peers who feel a bit lost or simply need help mapping out the locations of campus resources. Peer Mentor services are free and available on a drop –in basis, no reservation required. The Peer Mentor Center website is located at <http://www.sjsu.edu/muse/peermentor/>

LING 112 Introduction to Syntax Fall 2018 Tentative Course Schedule

The schedule is subject to change with a week's notice announced in class. Do each reading before the class for which it is listed. NOTE: "W" stands for 'week'.

W	Date	Topics	Reading assignments	Assignments due
1	W 8/22	Course Overview – What is syntax? The textbook. Types of expression.	Get the text and bring it to every class.	No problem.
	M 8/27	Types of expression: Lexical, morphological, syntactic	Ch. 1 (p. 1-16)	
2	W 8/29	Basic concepts in morphology	Ch. 1 (p. 16-25)	Homework 1: 1.1, 1.4, 1.6, 1.7
	M 9/3	LABOR DAY -- NO CLASSES!		
	W 9/5	Word Classes: Nouns.	Ch. 4 (93-103)	
3	M 9/10	Verbs: Semantic roles.	Ch. 4 (104-111)	Homework 2: 2.2, 2.3, 2.13
	W 9/12	Adjectives, adverbs, and other classes	Ch. 4 (116-127)	
4	M 9/17	Head and Dependents; Syntactic dependencies	Tallerman, Ch.4	Homework 3: 4.2, 4.4
	W 9/19	Argument structure. Constituent Structure - Tests for constituency	Ch. 6 (p. 152-165)	
5	M 9/24	Constituent structure. Practicing tests for constituent structure. Phrase structure rules.	Ch. 6 (p. 165-180)	Homework 4: Dependencies Handout
	W 9/26	Phrase structure rules. Practicing tests for constituent structure.		
6	M 10/1	Workshop: Practicing constituent structure representation		Homework 5: 6.3, 6.5, Constituent structure representation handout
	W 10/3	Workshop: Practicing constituent structure representation		PROJECT 1 DRAFT
7	M 10/8	Review.		
	W 10/10	MIDTERM EXAM		
8	M 10/15	Discussion of exam - Grammatical relations; Systems for organizing grammatical relations		PROJECT 1
	W 10/17	Systems for organizing grammatical relations	Ch. 8 (p. 210-229)	
9	M 10/22	Workshop: Recognizing patterns of grammatical relations		
	W 10/24	Voice and Valence	Ch.9 (p. 237-240)	Homework 6: 8.10, 8.11

W	Date	Topics	Reading assignments	Assignments due
10	M 10/29	Valence decreasing constructions	Ch. 9 (p. 241-258)	
	W 10/31	Valence increasing constructions	Ch. 9 (p. 258-276)	Homework 7: 9.2, 9.5
11	M 11/5	Multi-clause constructions: The continuum of grammatical integration; Serial verb constructions.	Ch. 10 (p. 288-291)	
	W 11/7	Complement clauses: Clauses that are subjects or objects.		Homework 8: 9.6, 9.10
	M 11/12	Veteran's day observed. NO CLASSES.		
12	W 11/14	Relative clauses.	Ch. 10 (p. 301-309)	
	M 11/19	Relative clauses		
	W 11/21	Day before Thanksgiving. NO CLASSES.		
13	M 11/26	Project 2 workshop.		
	W 11/28	Workshop: Analyzing relative clauses		PROJECT 2 DRAFT
14	M 12/3	Adverbial clauses	Ch. 10 (p. 297-301)	
	W 12/5	Review for the final exam.		
15	M 12/10	Review for the final. Last class.		PROJECT 2
	Weds. 12/12	FINAL EXAM 7:15 a.m.!!! to 9:00. Not	our regular time!	