

# LING300 – Introduction to Syntax

Fall 2016 – Tues/Thurs 12:30-1:45 in Education 318

## Instructor information

Name	Simin Karimi (professor)	Name	Luke Smith (TA)
Email	karimi@email.arizona.edu	Email	luke.smith@email.arizona.edu
Office	Communication 106	Office	Communication 114D
Hours	By appointment	Hours	MW 3-4 & TR after class

## Course description

LING 300, designed for advanced undergraduate students, is an intensive introduction to the scientific study of sentence structure of human language. Syntax is a major component of language, and syntactic theory attempts to understand and explain principled properties of human language. Studying syntax is a way of understanding the human mind as a computational and symbolic system. Examples will be provided from a number of various world languages (Indo-European as well as non-Indo-European).

Due to the complexity of the subject matter, you need to attend the class regularly, read the assigned readings very carefully and in a timely fashion, and do the homework assignments vigorously. In other words, you need to work *hard*. If you do this, you will achieve an enhanced understanding of how the scientific method applies to an area of human behavior. You will also have an appreciation of how principled human language is, and how linguists work in order to analyze complex phenomena.

*If you are taking this course to learn about literature, how to write poems and novels, or how to improve your English composition, you are in the wrong place. There are other courses that can help you in those areas.*

## Web Page

<http://d2l.arizona.edu>

Log In using your email.arizona.edu password and user name, then click on LING300 under "My Academic Courses".

## Books:

Carnie, Andrew (2013) *Syntax: A Generative Introduction*. Oxford: Blackwell. 2nd Ed. **(Required)**

Baker, Mark. (2001). *The Atoms of Language*. New York: Basic Books. **(Recommended)**

First three chapters (Large scanned in PDFs of these chapters can be found on the d2l site. You dont have to buy this one, but you can order it on Amazon if you want).

Carnie, Andrew. (2013). *The Syntax Workbook: A Companion to Carnies Syntax*. Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell. **(Recommended)**

## Prerequisite

LING/PSYC 201 is the essential prerequisite for this course. If you have not taken it, you may *not* take this course.

## Course Policies

### Policy on Attendance

You should come to class unless you are sick, or there is an urgent event in your life. If you skip a class, you will be responsible for getting the notes from one of your classmates. We will *not* redo the lecture.

### Policy on Assignments

Homework assignments, 14 of them, are assigned each Monday, due the following Monday, and will be discussed in class on Thursday of the same week.

Late assignments will NOT be accepted unless you have written proof that you were sick. No late homework is accepted AFTER it was discussed in class.

This is an analytical course that requires a lot of thinking. Discussing the material is very essential. Therefore, I encourage you to discuss your readings and homework assignments with your classmates.

*Discussing the homework does NOT mean copying it.*

*If you do discuss the homework assignment with your fellow students, you must write their names on top of the first page of your homework assignment.*

*The homework you turn in has to represent your own work: the solution to the problem and the wording of your assignment must be your own.*

### Policy on Behavior in Class

The following activities are *not* acceptable:

- Distracting everyone by talking loudly (or in any other form and fashion).
- Regularly coming late or leaving early.
- Reading a newspaper or anything that distracts your attention.
- Leaving a cell phone on.
- Asking questions unrelated to the subject under discussion in class.

### Policy on Cheating and Plagiarism

Presenting someone else's work as your own is plagiarism.

If you are caught cheating on an assignment or test, you will fail the course and I will recommend to the Dean that you be expelled. See the plagiarism page available on the D2L site of this course.

## Objectives

You will receive an objective sheet after we finish each unit. These objective sheets state clearly what skills you should have acquired after doing a particular set of lectures and homework assignments. The objectives are stated in the form of tasks that you should be able to perform using what you have learned from the course. It is your responsibility to go over these objectives and determine whether you actually can perform them. If you cannot, seek help as soon as possible from me.

## Requirements and Grading

Weekly homework assignments (14 of them)	98%
Participation	2%

Homework assignments are assigned on Mondays, due on the following Mondays and reviewed on Thursdays of the same week.

90-100	A
80-89	B
70-79	C
60-69	D
59 or below	E

## Optional Language Project (1 credit independent study):

I am offering an optional project for this class, which involves doing independent research with a native speaker and writing up a short project (about 10 pages) describing the syntax of the language. If you are interested in doing the project you can register for a 1 unit independent study with me (either 399, pass/fail or 399H or 493, for a letter grade).

You can also do this in subsequent semesters if you prefer