

SEMINAR
“THE SYNTAX/SEMANTICS INTERFACE ACROSS GRAMMAR FORMALISMS”
Syllabus
SoSe2024

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course examines several phenomena that play a pivotal role at the syntax-semantics interface, including predicate-argument relations, *wh*-dependencies (e.g., in interrogatives and in relative clauses), quantifier scope and the binding of variables. For each of these constructions, detailed empirical descriptions will be provided, focusing on the interaction between these constructions and other aspects of the grammar within a given language (e.g., licensing of reflexives) as well as on cross-linguistic comparisons. We will see how the relevant patterns are derived in different grammar formalisms, including Generative Grammar / Minimalism, Categorical Grammar, Lexical Functional Grammar (LFG) and Lexicalized Tree Adjoining Grammar (LTAG). We will also explore the acquisition and representation of meaning in Large Language Models (LLMs).

INSTRUCTOR: Prof. Maribel Romero, maribel.romero@uni-konstanz.de
Office hours: Tuesdays 10-11h in G222 or in my zoom office:
<https://zoom.us/j/96707386613?pwd=SERxQ2lsVWNabTJWMHNsL1kxTXFHQT09>

TIME AND VENUE: Mondays 15:15-16:45h
G420

COURSE PREREQUISITES

Knowledge of Syntax and Semantics at least equivalent to:
Core Components B or
Ling214+Ling215.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADE PERCENTAGE

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| • Possibly some practice exercises | 0% |
| • Presentation of a paper in class | 30% |
| • Term paper (Hausarbeit), due on September 1, 2024 | 70% |

Outline of the course (**tentative!**)

DATE	TOPIC	READINGS
April 8	GB/Minimalism I: The emergence of Logical Form	May 1985:Ch.1; Carnie 2013:Ch.13 [Jacobson 1992; Shimoyama 06; Eilam 2011]
April 15	GB/Minimalism II: Quantifier Raising	Heim & Kratzer 1998: Ch.7; Hackl et al. 2012 [Fox 2003; Szabolsci 2010; Barker 2020]
April 22	GB/Minimalism vs. Categorical Grammar + Variable-Free Semantics: Antecedent-Contained VP-Deletion	Jacobson 2014:§14.4.2; Jacobson 1992 [Jacobson & Gibson 2014]
April 29	LFG I: General architecture. Syntax. [Invited lecture by Dr. Zymla]	Börjars 2020 [Dalrymple 2001, Kaplan 1995]
May 6	LFG II: Semantic composition and scope	Asudeh 2022 [Dalrymple 2001]
May 13	Across formalisms: Lexical Decomposition: degree operators	Hackl 2009: pp. 63-84
May 20	Holiday (Whit Monday)	
May 27	Holidays (Pfingstferien)	
June 3	Consolidation week: Lecture free period	
June 10	Across formalisms: Lexical Decomposition: <i>most</i> and <i>many</i>	Romero 2015 [Penka 2011; Romero 2021]
June 17	LTAG: Syntax: Adjunction and Islands Semantics: Scope and binding	Frank 2006, Kallmeyer & Romero 2008 [Joshi 1987; Kroch & Joshi 1985]
June 24	Large Language Models I: Quantifier meanings in neural networks	Steinert-T. & Szymanik 2019 [Mhasawade et al. 2018; Spenader & de Villiers 2019]
July 1	Large Language Models II: [Invited lecture by Dr. Buder-Gröndahl Invited presentation by D. Orlinova]	Pavlick 2023 [Chang & Bergen 2024]
July 8	Student presentations	
July 15	Student presentations	

References

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