

## **Linguistics 206Q: Syntax and semantics**

Tu/Th 9:30-11:45, STRS01

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### **Course description**

The analysis of form and meaning in natural languages in a Chomskyan framework: surface structures, deep structures, transformational rules, and principles of semantic interpretation.

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### **Q-Criteria, CA3 – Science and Technology Criteria**

See <http://geoc.uconn.edu/>

*Courses appropriate for a “Q” designation must meet ALL THREE of the following criteria:*

1. Include mathematics and/or statistics at or above the basic algebra level as an integral part of the course which is used throughout the course;
2. Include use of basic algebraic concepts such as: formulas and functions, linear and quadratic equations and their graphs, systems of equations, polynomials, fractional expressions, exponents, powers and roots, problem solving and word problems. Formal abstract structures used in symbolic logic and other algebraic analyses are acceptable;
3. Require the student to understand and carry out actual mathematical and/or statistical manipulations, and relate them to whatever data might be provided in order to draw conclusions.

*Courses appropriate for Content Area 3 – Science and Technology – must acquaint students with scientific thought, observation, experimentation, and formal hypothesis testing, and enable students to consider the impact that developments in science and technology have on the nature and quality of life. Courses in this group should meet the following criteria:*

1. Explore an area of science or technology by introducing students to a broad, coherent body of knowledge and contemporary scientific methods;
2. Promote an understanding of the nature of modern scientific inquiry, the process of investigation, and the interplay of data, hypotheses and principles in the development and application of scientific knowledge;
3. Introduce students to unresolved questions in some area of science or technology and discuss how progress might be made in answering these questions; and
4. Promote interest, competence and commitment to continued learning about contemporary science and technology and their impact upon the world and human society.

While all four criteria should be addressed, only two or three need to be satisfied in depth.

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## Grading Policy

Your job as a student is to learn certain material and ways of thinking. My primary job as instructor is to teach you, but I also have the job of assessing your learning. To do this, I must ask you to demonstrate your learning, which I do in various ways.

Course requirements	
2 Midterms	40%
Final exam	25%
Homeworks	25%
In-class projects	10%

Numerical score/letter grade conversion					
93-100	A	80-82	B-	67-69	D+
90-92	A-	77-79	C+	63-66	D
87-89	B+	73-76	C	60-62	D-
83-86	B	70-72	C-	0-59	F

### Homeworks

The primary function of your homework assignments is in the teaching/learning area. You will learn the subject matter much better if you do the homework assignments. You probably cannot learn what is required in the course without doing the homework. The secondary function of homework is my assessment of your learning.

You may discuss your homework with a student in this course. In fact, a study group can be a good supplementary learning mechanism, and it is encouraged. **HOWEVER:** You may NOT simply copy another student's answers, nor may a group turn in one common set of answers (whether or not they are written on multiple pages with different names on the top). The first defeats the learning purpose; the second defeats the assessment purpose.

**Homeworks are due in class on Tuesdays.** Late homeworks received any time after the end of class (11:45 PM) on the Tuesday on which they are due and before the beginning of class (9:30 AM) on the following Thursday will be accepted and scored with a deduction of 20% for lateness. Late homeworks received any time after the beginning of the Thursday class following their due date will not be accepted anymore.

### Exams

*Please note the scheduled dates for the exams and avoid any conflicts.* Make-up exams (for the midterm exams) are available only to students who have a legitimate and documented excuse for missing an exam.

The preliminary date for the final exam is Saturday, May 10, 2008, 10:30 – 12:30. Please check the registrar's web page (<http://www.registrar.uconn.edu/finals.html>) for updates. University rules require that you take the final exam at the time published (there is no make-up exam for the final exam).

The primary purpose of exams is my assessment of your learning. You may ask the instructor clarification questions during an exam. However, you may NOT seek or obtain answers from another student, nor may you provide answers to another student, during an exam. You may not consult notes or unauthorized material during the exams.

### In-class projects

There will be 5 in-class projects, each worth 2% of the semester grade. The projects are not scheduled ahead of time—regular attendance is thus necessary to receive these points. The primary purpose of the in-class projects is learning. Most of the projects will involve group exercises, and students will learn via trial and error and discovery. There will be no deductions for incorrect answers—full 2% will be credited for the participation in each project.

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**Academic Integrity (from “The Student Code” <http://www.dosa.uconn.edu>)**

A fundamental tenet of all educational institutions is academic honesty; academic work depends upon respect for and acknowledgement of the research and ideas of others. Misrepresenting someone else’s work as one’s own is a serious offense in any academic setting and it will not be condoned.

Academic misconduct includes, but is not limited to, providing or receiving assistance in a manner not authorized by the instructor in the creation of work to be submitted for academic evaluation (e.g. papers, projects, and examinations); any attempt to influence improperly (e.g. bribery, threats) any member of the faculty, staff, or administration of the University in any matter pertaining to academics or research; presenting, as one’s own, the ideas or words of another for academic evaluation; doing unauthorized academic work for which another person will receive credit or be evaluated; and presenting the same or substantially the same papers or projects in two or more courses without the explicit permission of the instructors involved.

A student who knowingly assists another student in committing an act of academic misconduct shall be equally accountable for the violation, and shall be subject to the sanctions and other remedies described in *The Student Code*.

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**Course material**

In the first half of the course, selected readings will be assigned from the following online text book:

Santorini, Beatrice and Anthony Kroch. 2007. *The syntax of natural language: An online introduction using the Trees program.*

<http://www.ling.upenn.edu/~beatrice/syntax-textbook>

The textbook used for the second half of the course (available at the UConn Coop) is:

Kearns, Kate 2000. *Semantics.* Palgrave Macmillan.

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**Schedule (subject to change)**

Date	Topic	Important dates
Jan 22 Tu Jan 24 Th	Overview and foundational issues	
Jan 29 Tu Jan 31 Th	Syntactic phrases, PS-rules	
Feb 5 Tu Feb 7 Th	X-bar-theory	Homework 1 due
Feb 12 Tu Feb 14 Th	Arguments vs. modifiers	
Feb 19 Tu	Review and exercises	Homework 2 due
<b>Feb 21 Th</b>	<b>First Exam</b>	
Feb 26 Tu Feb 28 Th	Syntactic dependencies	
Mar 4 Tu Mar 6 Th	Syntactic dependencies cont'd	
<b>SPRING BREAK</b>		
Mar 18 Tu Mar 20 Th	Semantics: Introduction (Chapter 1)	Homework 3 due
Mar 25 Tu Mar 27 Th	First order logic (Chapter 2)	
Apr 1 Tu	Review and exercises	Homework 4 due
<b>Apr 3 Th</b>	<b>Second Exam</b>	
Apr 8 Tu Apr 10 Th	Modality and possible worlds (Chapter 3)	
Apr 15 Tu Apr 17 Th	Natural language quantifiers (Chapter 4)	
Apr 22 Tu Apr 24 Th	To be determined later	Homework 5 due
Apr 29 Tu May 1 Th	Review and exercises	