

LING 3340: Syntax 1

Spring 2020

Instructor Information

Instructors: Joey Sabbagh and Jeffrey Witzel

Office Numbers: Hammond Hall 126 (Sabbagh) / Hammond Hall 129 (Witzel)

Office Telephone Number: (817) 272-3133

Email Address: sabbagh@uta.edu / jeffrey.witzel@uta.edu

Faculty Profile:

<https://mentis.uta.edu/explore/profile/joseph-sabbagh>

<https://mentis.uta.edu/explore/profile/jeffrey-witzel>

Revised Office Hours:

Carly Sommerlot (TA): Wednesday 11:30am-1:00pm

Joey Sabbagh: Wednesday 1:00pm -2:00pm

William Kirton (TA): Thursday 10:30am-12:30pm

Jeffrey Witzel: Thursday 2:00pm-3:00pm

Course Information

Section Information: LING 3340-001

Time and Place of Class Meetings:

COBA 251, MoWe 1:00PM - 2:20PM / **Online from 3/23/20**

Description of Course Content:

This course introduces the fundamental goals and techniques of syntactic analysis from the perspective of Generative Grammar. It will help you to establish a theoretical foundation that you can use to examine more advanced topics related to the structure of human language and to conduct your own research.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon successfully completing this course, students should be able to

- 1) demonstrate an understanding of theoretical concepts and analytical tools in syntax.
- 2) apply these concepts and tools to the analysis of a wide range of languages.
- 3) develop coherent arguments and provide empirical justification for theoretical claims.

Required Textbooks and Other Course Materials:

All materials for this class will be posted on the Canvas site for this class. You are also responsible for checking this site regularly to access readings, class notes, handouts, updates, assignments, grades, etc.

Descriptions of major assignments and examinations:

10 Homework Assignments (70% of your overall grade). The primary work for this course will consist of 10 problem sets/assignments. During the first half of the class, these problems sets/assignments were handed out on Wednesday, due the following Wednesday in class. In the online portion of this class (after 3/23), these problems sets/assignments are due on Sunday evening at midnight (see below for due dates). They will include fairly straightforward problems that ask you to apply techniques and concepts

that we have dealt with in class as well as more challenging ones that ask you develop and support an analysis or argument. Your answers to these problems, and to the more challenging ones in particular, should be written in an essay-style structure and in logical, clear, and concise prose. **During the first half of the class, these problems sets/assignments were turned in at the beginning of the class on the day that they were due. In the online portion of this class (after 3/23), these problems sets/assignments should be submitted on Canvas, as either a Word document or a pdf.** Each assignment will be weighted equally in terms of how it will contribute to your final grade (each problem set = 7%).

You are encouraged to work together on these assignments. However, what you turn in must be your own work and written IN YOUR OWN WORDS. If you work with others on assignments, always identify your collaborators in your write-up. Working collaboratively on assignments practically guarantees greater success in this course (i.e., a better grade), and will also help establish a fun and collegial environment in the classroom.

Quizzes (20% of your overall grade). There will be two quizzes in this class – **one during the class period on 2/12 and another submitted online on 4/5.** These quizzes will primarily assess your ability to apply the concepts that we have learned in class to create constituent structure representations (i.e., tree structures) for English sentences. These quizzes will be “open note” (meaning that you can use paper copies of the notes that you have created for class during these quizzes). Each quiz will be weighted equally in terms of how it will contribute to your final grade (each quiz = 10%).

Attendance and Participation (10%). Attend all classes (and show up on time) and participate in class discussion/activities. You will lose participation points if you are late or absent from class.

Grading Information

Grading:

Your grade on each component of the class will be determined on the basis of the percentage of points earned to points possible: 100-90% = A, 89-80% = B, 79-70% = C, 69-60% = D, 59-0% = F. Your final grade will be determined in the same fashion but taking into account the weightings described above (repeated here for the sake of clarity).

Homework Assignments:	70%
Quizzes:	20%
Attendance/Participation:	10%

Students are expected to keep track of their performance throughout the semester and to seek guidance from available sources (including the TAs and the instructors) if their performance drops below satisfactory levels.

Late Submission of Assignments:

Turn in all assignments on time. Late assignments may be accepted (at the instructors' discretion), but with a grade penalty. These assignments are unlikely to be returned to you in a timely manner, and they will not receive the same amount of feedback as an assignment handed in on time.

Course Schedule

Class	Date	Topic(s)	Due Dates
Week 1b	22-Jan	Generative Grammar: The Basics	
Week 2a	27-Jan	Parts of Speech	
Week 2b	29-Jan	Parts of Speech	
Week 3a	3-Feb	Constituency, Trees, and Rules	
Week 3b	5-Feb	Constituency, Trees, and Rules	Problem Set 1 due
Week 4a	10-Feb	Constituency, Trees, and Rules	
Week 4b	12-Feb	QUIZ 1	
Week 5a	17-Feb	Structural Relations	
Week 5b	19-Feb	Structural Relations	Problem Set 2 due
Week 6a	24-Feb	Binding Theory	
Week 6b	26-Feb	Binding Theory	Problem Set 3 due
Week 7a	2-Mar	X-bar Theory	
Week 7b	4-Mar	X-bar Theory	Problem Set 4 due
Week 8a	9-Mar	Spring Break	
Week 8b	11-Mar	Spring Break	
	16-Mar	Spring Break	
	18-Mar	Spring Break	
	23-Mar	Start of online class	
	25-Mar		Problem Set 5 due
	5-Apr	Complete Online Module 1	Quiz 2 due Problem Set 6 due
	12-Apr	Complete Online Module 2	Problem Set 7 due
	19-Apr	Complete Online Module 3	Problem Set 8 due
	26-Apr	Complete Online Module 4	Problem Set 9 due
	3-May	Complete Online Module 5	Problem Set 10 due

Other important dates: Census Date – 2/5, Last day to drop – 4/3

The instructors for this course reserve the right to adjust the course schedule in any way that serves the educational needs of the students enrolled in this class.

Institution Information

UTA students are encouraged to review the below institutional policies and informational sections and reach out to the specific office with any questions. To view this institutional information, please visit the [Institutional Information](http://www.uta.edu/provost/administrative-forms/course-syllabus/index.php) page (<http://www.uta.edu/provost/administrative-forms/course-syllabus/index.php>) which includes the following policies among others:

- Drop Policy
- Disability Accommodations
- Title IX Policy
- Academic Integrity
- Student Feedback Survey
- Final Exam Schedule

Additional Information

Attendance:

At The University of Texas at Arlington, taking attendance is not required but attendance is a critical indicator of student success. Each faculty member is free to develop his or her own methods of evaluating students' academic performance, which includes establishing course-specific policies on attendance. As the instructor of this section, I have established the attendance policy stated above (p. 2 *Attendance and Participation*). However, while UT Arlington does not require instructors to take attendance in their courses, the U.S. Department of Education requires that the University have a mechanism in place to mark when Federal Student Aid recipients "begin attendance in a course." UT Arlington instructors will report when students begin attendance in a course as part of the final grading process. Specifically, when assigning a student a grade of F, faculty report must the last date a student attended their class based on evidence such as a test, participation in a class project or presentation, or an engagement online via Canvas. This date is reported to the Department of Education for federal financial aid recipients.

Emergency Exit Procedures:

Should we experience an emergency event that requires evacuation of the building, students should exit the room and move toward the nearest exit, which is down the main hall on the left. When exiting the building during an emergency, do not take an elevator but use the stairwells instead. Faculty members and instructional staff will assist students in selecting the safest route for evacuation and will make arrangements to assist individuals with disabilities.

Student Support Services:

UT Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. Resources include [tutoring](#) by appointment, [drop-in tutoring](#), [mentoring](#) (time management, study skills, etc.), [major-based learning centers](#), [counseling](#), and [federally funded programs](#). For individualized referrals, students may call the Maverick Resource Hotline at 817-272-6107, send a message to resources@uta.edu, or view the information at [Resource Hotline](#) (<http://www.uta.edu/studentssuccess/success-programs/programs/resource-hotline.php>).

IDEAS Center:

The [IDEAS Center](#) (<https://www.uta.edu/ideas/>) (2nd Floor of Central Library) offers **FREE** [tutoring](#) and [mentoring](#) to all students with a focus on transfer students, sophomores, veterans and others undergoing a transition to UT Arlington. Students can drop in or check the schedule of available peer tutors at www.uta.edu/IDEAS, or call (817) 272-6593.

The English Writing Center (411LIBR):

The Writing Center offers **FREE** tutoring in 15-, 30-, 45-, and 60-minute face-to-face and online sessions to all UTA students on any phase of their UTA coursework. Register and make appointments online at the [Writing Center](#) (<https://uta.mywconline.com>). Classroom visits, workshops, and specialized services

for graduate students and faculty are also available. Please see [Writing Center: OWL](#) for detailed information on all our programs and services.

The Library's 2nd floor [Academic Plaza](http://library.uta.edu/academic-plaza) (<http://library.uta.edu/academic-plaza>) offers students a central hub of support services, including IDEAS Center, University Advising Services, Transfer UTA and various college/school advising hours. Services are available during the [library's hours](#) of operation.

Emergency Phone Numbers

In case of an on-campus emergency, call the UT Arlington Police Department at **817-272-3003** (non-campus phone), **2-3003** (campus phone). You may also dial 911. Non-emergency number 817-272-3381