

# LINGUISTICS 72100 – SYNTAX I

FALL 2021

THE GRADUATE CENTER, CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

---

**INSTRUCTOR:** Jason Kandybowicz  
**EMAIL ADDRESS:** [jkandybowicz@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:jkandybowicz@gc.cuny.edu)

**OFFICE:** Room 7400.05  
**OFFICE HOURS:** TBA

**CLASS LOCATION:** TBA  
**CLASS TIME:** Tuesday: 2:00-4:00pm

**PRACTICUM LEADER:** LeeAnn Stover  
**EMAIL ADDRESS:** [lstove21@gmail.com](mailto:lstove21@gmail.com)

**PRACTICUM LOCATION:** TBA  
**PRACTICUM TIME:** Thursday: 2:00-4:00pm

**CLASS WEBSITE:** Course materials will be posted to the Blackboard course page

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course provides an introduction to Principles and Parameters Theory (P&P), the foundation of current mainstream generative approaches to phrase and sentence structure. P&P aims to explain the acquisition and cross-linguistic variation of syntactic phenomena by pursuing the idea that a pre-determined set of principles underlies the grammars of all languages and that the apparent differences we see among languages are the result of differences in parameter settings. Although we will examine similarities and differences between languages, English (and other European languages) will be a main point of reference in our understanding of the theory.

## COURSE GOALS

Students will gain specialized knowledge of the syntax of English as well as aspects of the syntax of other languages. Students will develop critical thinking skills, experience with argumentation and analysis, and familiarity with the scientific method.

## LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this course, students will be expected to be able to reproduce all core ingredients of P&P theory; apply P&P theory to perform syntactic analysis; demonstrate proficiency in syntactic argumentation; and engage with primary syntactic literature in the generative tradition.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING POLICY

- Attendance and participation: 20%
- Midterm exam (take-home): 40%
- Final exam (take-home): 40%

Optional weekly exercises will be posted to the Blackboard course page for practice. If you elect to complete these exercises, I will provide you with an answer key. There is no due date for these exercises.

## PREPARATION FOR PRACTICUM

You will be expected to prepare for each practicum by meeting beforehand with classmates, virtually, in groups of two or three, and doing two things: 1) working on the pre-assigned practicum exercises (if assigned) and 2) coming up with one or two questions about material from the course (these could be questions about material from lectures or practicum exercises). Your collaborative practicum exercise work and questions will not be submitted, but you are expected to have them prepared before each practicum session.

## TEXTBOOK

There is no required textbook or reading for this course beyond the class handouts. If you feel you'd like optional/supplemental reading, I can make some suggestions.

## COURSE SCHEDULE (subject to periodic revision as needed)

CLASS	MONTH	DAY	TOPICS
1			Introduction, categories, constituency
2			Phrase structure trees & structural relations
3			X-bar theory
4			Theta theory & the lexicon ( <b>Note: this class will be asynchronous</b> )
5			Head movement
6			Case theory
7			Binding Theory
8			Control
9			A-movement: raising, passives & unaccusatives
10			A-bar movement: <i>wh</i> - movement ( <b>Midterm exam due</b> )
11			Constraints on <i>wh</i> - movement: islands, subjacency & superiority
12			Constraints on <i>wh</i> - movement: <i>comp-trace</i> & crossover effects
13			Null operators: relative clauses
14			Null operators: <i>tough</i> movement & parasitic gaps
			<b>Final exam due (by 4pm)</b>