https://mitcho.com/nus/gram2021

Luminus > EL5101/R Grammatical Analysis

EL5101 Grammatical Analysis

National University of Singapore

2021–2022 Semester 1

Meetings: Tuesdays 18:00, online

Instructor

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Office hours: TBD

Description

> "A logical theory may be tested by its capacity for dealing with puzzles, and it is a wholesome plan, in thinking about logic, to stock the mind with as many puzzles as possible, since these serve much the same purpose as is served by experiments in physical science."
>
> Russell (1905: 484–485)

This course is a graduate-level introduction to modern syntactic theory. Emphasis will be placed on the the process of analysis and argumentation. Empirically, the course will cover a range of grammatical phenomena in English and other languages, to "stock the mind with as many puzzles as possible," and to motivate and evaluate hypotheses under discussion. Students will complete the class with both the technical expertise and theoretical foundation to comfortably approach a range of work in contemporary syntactic literature.

Website

- Lecture notes will be posted on the public website, `https://mitcho.com/nus/gram2021/`
- Luminus is used for accessing lectures, meetings, and additional readings, and for submitting assignments. Please make sure you are in the **EL5101** or **EL5101R** module on Luminus.

Textbook

Adger, David. 2003. *Core Syntax: A Minimalist Approach*. Oxford. We will use almost all of this book, so you should buy a copy. Additional readings will be on LumiNUS.

Format and schedule

This year (2021), this module will be held in a <u>fully online format</u>. Each unit has two parts:

1. **In-person meeting:**   Luminus > Conferencing

   <u>Tuesdays at 6pm</u>; probably up to 1.5h. I will review material and answer questions, and we will solve practice problems in groups.

2. **At-home activities:**

   – Lecture video (or two):   Luminus > Multimedia

   Available from Wednesday. My advice: Have your own copy of the handout (on the public website) open or printed, so you can take notes on it as you watch.

   – Readings: Adger *CS* textbook + Luminus > Files > Readings

   – Mini-quiz: Luminus > Quiz

   Weekly mini-quizzes test comprehension of the video lectures and readings. Each quiz should take less than five minutes. <u>Complete by Tuesday at noon.</u>

- Forum: Luminus > Forum

  The forum is available for discussing and asking questions about the material. While forum posts are not required, they will be considered as a form of participation.

- Problem set: public; submit to Luminus > Files > Student Submission

  Problem sets are an opportunity to apply techniques developed in class and in the readings to original data. Submit <u>as PDFs</u> with your name *in* the text, <u>by Tuesday at 6pm</u>.

The overall schedule is on the public website and is subject to change. *CS* refers to *Core Syntax*.

Requirements

Your grade will be determined by your performance on the following:

1. **Attendance and participation (10%):** You will receive a grade based on a combination of (a) your attendance and participation in in-person meetings (in group exercises, in discussions, etc.), and (b) participation in the Luminus Forum.

2. **Mini-quizzes (10%)**

3. **Problem sets (6 × 5% = 30%)**

4. **Tests (2 × 15% = 30%):** Two take-home tests will assess knowledge of the empirical phenomena covered in the class and application of technical concepts to new data and puzzles.

5. **Language report (20%):** Students will study one aspect of an unfamiliar language through elicitation with a native speaker. Guidelines on possible topics will be given later. The language must be a language that (a) you are not a native speaker of and (b) cannot be English, Singlish, Mandarin Chinese, or Singapore Malay. Should be approximately ten pages. Due **Friday, November 12th**.

If you are registered for EL5101R: There will be an additional problem on problem sets and quizzes.

Notes

- **Cooperation:** You are encouraged to discuss the problem sets with other students. However, you must always submit your own write-up, and you should list the students who you worked with on your assignment.
- **Integrity:** <u>The use of others' ideas or expressions without citation is plagiarism.</u> You must declare all sources in submitted work. Citations don't need to be in any particular format, but they have to be there.
- **Late submissions:** Late submissions are not accepted except with prior permission.
- **Talk to me:** I want you to succeed in this class. If any material or requirement is unclear, let me know. In extreme cases, alternative arrangements can be made for some of the course requirements, but only by talking to me first.

1. Introductions and the best thing that happened to you this week

2. What can go in the blank? What can't?

    (1)   _____ was unexpected.

    (2)   John expects _____ to do the homework.

    (3)   Every _____ in Penang is delicious.

    (4)   Mary is always _____.

    (5)   _____ came to class on time.

    (6)   There is a turtle _____.

    (7)   We all rely _____.