

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

- Time:** Friday 13:00-16:00
Place: Arjona 344
Instructor: Jonathan Bobaljik
jonathan.bobaljik@uconn.edu
Course web page: <http://bobaljik.uconn.edu/322/index.html>
Office hours: By appointment or drop in (Best time: Wed. a.m.)
Readings: In copy room (posted online where avail)

Course aims and content:

This course is intended to promote familiarity with the major themes (conceptual and technical) characterizing the transition from GB through the *Minimalist Program*, in order to establish a foundation for further research in syntactic theory. A major focus will be to develop an understanding of why certain problems have been treated in certain ways. There will be a significant component of problem solving and refinement of skills of linguistic argumentation. Participation in class in addition to the written work is therefore required.

Participation, grading, readings:

You bring to the program a variety of backgrounds. I will be more than happy to provide additional clarification and background (or additional resources on a topic) to anyone who needs it whenever you need it, in class, appointments or email. I'm not a mind-reader; *please do not be shy about asking for clarification.*

2. EVALUATION

- ❖ Assignments (6)
- ❖ Class participation
- ❖ Term paper (squib / short paper)

In order to receive an "A" you have to perform satisfactorily in all of the above.

2.1 Assignments

- ❖ Assignments must not only provide the correct answer but must also show how you arrive at that solution.
- ❖ *I strongly encourage you to work together on the assignments,* your individual differences in background and perspective will be of mutual benefit. But you must write up your own answers individually.

2.2 Term paper

- ❖ Topic: end March (you must meet with me ahead of time)
- ❖ Draft: April 18, 2008 (in class or by email)
- ❖ Revised paper: Sat., May 10, 2008 (by e-mail)
- ❖ Length: rough guideline: 15 pages double spaced (12 pt. font)

3. READINGS

The reading list will be updated as the semester progresses. Readings must be done before the class indicated, as I will presuppose them in the class discussion. I will assign a significant amount of reading, but in general, I do not expect you to spend more than 2-3 hours per week, on average, with the readings. For longer articles, I expect you to read to get a sense of the main idea, rather than a full command of each technical detail; I will also let you know ahead of time which sections to pay close(r) attention to. If you find the readings are taking significantly longer, come talk to me and I can provide hints about reading strategy.

Tentative schedule (* denotes optional)

Class 1: Course Overview
Class 2-3: Subjacency, the Cycle, the ECP

Riemsdijk, Henk van & Edwin Williams. 1985. *Introduction to the Theory of Grammar*, MIT Press, Cambridge, Mass. Chapter 4 (*Chapter 2 provides some useful background)

Class 4-5: Barriers & Relativized Minimality

Chomsky, Noam. 1986. *Barriers*, MIT Press, Cambridge, Mass. pp. 1-48.
Rizzi, Luigi. 1990. *Relativized Minimality*. MIT Press, Cambridge, Mass. pp. 1-71.

remaining schedule t.b.a.

If you have questions, comments, concerns of any kind, please come see me!