

**Syntactic Theory***Preliminary Course Information and Syllabus***Lecture:** MWTh, 9:10am-10:00am**Optional Discussion Section:** Thursdays**Instructor:** Lotus Goldberg

Office: Volen 134

Box: Volen 261 [CoSci Office]

*lmgold@brandeis.edu*

Phone: (781) 736-3265

Office Hours: Wednesdays 1:00-3:00pm

**COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES**

This course aims at developing a conceptual, analytical and methodological understanding of generative syntactic theory—in addition to familiarity with the major syntactic phenomena of English. Data from other languages will be considered where relevant.

This course has no prerequisites. Having taken Linguistics 100a , Introduction to Linguistics, is recommended, but not required.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

Course Component	Percent of Final Grade
Readings from Andrew Carnie's <i>Syntax: A generative introduction</i> (available from the bookstore) — <u>Optional and Supplemental Only</u> .	
Average of Homeworks (lowest dropped)	60%
Midterm Exam (take-home)	15%
Final Paper (due May 4)	25%
<b>Final Course Grade</b>	<b>100%</b>

**POLICIES**

- Homeworks are generally handed out each Thursday, and due the following week on Friday at noon. One homework is due each week.
- No late work accepted. The lowest homework grade will be dropped.
- You are encouraged to work on homeworks together, but you must lay out and write up your answer on your own, all in your own words. You are expected to be honest in all of your academic work. The University policy on academic honesty is distributed annually as section 4 of the *Rights and Responsibilities* handbook. Instances of alleged dishonesty will be forwarded to the Office of Campus Life for possible referral to the Student Judicial System. Potential sanctions include failure in the course and suspension from the University. If you have any questions about my expectations, please ask.
- If you are a student with a documented disability on record at Brandeis University and wish to have a reasonable accommodation made for you in this class, please see me immediately.

**SYLLABUS****Syllabus (topics may change as the term progresses):**

<b>Week of Course</b>	<b>Topics</b>	<b>Work Due</b>
<b>1:</b>	Grammaticality and ungrammaticality, (Non)standardness, Semantically bizarre sentences, ambiguity; The concept of a formal grammar	
<b>2:</b>	Constituency and tests for it, relationships between elements in the tree	Hwk 1 due Fri
<b>3:</b>	Inflection and agreement	Hwk 2 due Wed
<b>4:</b>	The auxiliary system, question structures, subcategorization	Hwk 3 due Wed
<b>5:</b>	Passive, Semantic ( $\theta$ -) Roles	Hwk 4 due Wed
<b>6:</b>	Adjunct and complement clause types	Hwk 5 due Wed
<b>7:</b>	Islands, the Coordinate Structure Constraint	Hwk 6 due Wed
<b>8:</b>	Expletive <i>it</i>	Hwk 7 due Wed
<b>9:</b>	Infinitival structures	Midterm due Wed
<b>10:</b>	Infinitival structures, continued	Hwk 8 due Wed
<b>11:</b>	Infinitivals wrap-up, Pronouns	Hwk 9 due Wed
<b>12:</b>	Reflexive and nonreflexive pronoun distribution	Hwk 10 due Wed
<b>13:</b>	Null anaphora	Hwk 11 due Wed
<b>14:</b>	Null anaphora, continued	
<b>FINAL PAPER: due at xxx</b>		