

Ling 620 Advanced Formal Syntax

San Diego State University

Schedule # 22209

Spring 2022

TTh 12:30pm–1:45pm

AL-104*

*Following campus guidelines, this class will meet synchronously on Zoom until Feb 4, 2022. After that, class will be held in person in AL-104. Updated information will be provided via Canvas as it becomes available.

This course serves as an introduction to the study of syntax within the Lexical-Functional Grammar (LFG), a lexicalist constraint-based grammar framework. We will explore a number of phenomena of natural language morphosyntax in a variety of typologically diverse languages. Topics to be covered include relative and interrogative clauses, auxiliaries and clause structure, mixed category constructions, and computational grammars. **Prerequisite: Ling 522 or equivalent.**

Prof. Rob Malouf

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Office hours: TTh 2:00–3:00 or by appointment

Real office: SHW 244

Zoom office: SDSU.zoom.us/j/88612436627

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion, students will have the knowledge and skills to:

1. describe the formal mechanisms of Lexical Functional Grammar;
2. compare LFG to other syntactic frameworks;
3. apply LFG grammars to constructions in English and other languages;
4. analyze morphosyntactic constructions in English and other languages using LFG;
5. carry out research applying relevant theoretical approaches to the analysis of morphosyntax;
6. engage with literature that applies syntactic theory to a range of linguistic phenomena.

Course Materials

The textbook for this course is:

- Kersti Börjars, Rachel Nordlinger, and Louisa Sadler. 2019. *Lexical-Functional Grammar: An Introduction*. Cambridge University Press.

This is available through the bookstores and the usual other sources. Additional readings will include:

- Bresnan, Joan. 2021. Formal grammar, usage probabilities, and auxiliary contraction. *Language* 97(1):108–150.
- Bresnan, Joan and Jonni M. Kanerva. 1989. Locative inversion in Chicheŵa: A case study of factorization in grammar. *Linguistic Inquiry* 20(1):1–50.
- Dalrymple, Mary. 1993. *The Syntax of Anaphoric Binding*. Stanford: CSLI Publications. (Chapter 4)
- Kaplan, Ronald M. and Annie Zaenen. 1989. Long-distance dependencies, constituent structure, and functional uncertainty. In Mark R. Baltin, and Anthony S. Kroch (eds.), *Alternative Conceptions of Phrase Structure* Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 17–42.
- Sadler, Louisa. 2016. Agreement in Archi: An LFG perspective. In Oliver Bond, Greville G. Corbett, Marina Chumakina, and Dunstan Brown (eds), *Archi: Complexities of Agreement in Cross-Theoretical Perspective*. Oxford University Press.

All other course information, additional readings, assignments, slides, etc. will be available on Canvas.

Course Design

The grade for the course will be based on readings and problem sets (20%), a take-home midterm exam (40%), and a final paper (40%). Working in groups on homework assignments is encouraged. However, please turn in your own individual write-up. Late homeworks will be accepted (with a grade penalty) for one week only after the deadline.

Schedule

Week	Topic	Readings
1	Frameworks and theories, intro to LFG	Chapter 1
2–3	Constituency and constructions	Chapter 2, 3
4–5	Morphosyntax	Chapter 4
6–7	Raising and control	Chapter 5
8	Midterm	
9–10	Long distance dependencies	Chapter 6, Kaplan & Zaenen (1989)
11	Pronouns	Chapter 7, Dalrymple (1993)
12	Lexical Mapping Theory	Chapter 8, Bresnan & Kanerva (1989)
	Draft paper due	April 21
13	Archi agreement	Sadler (2016)
14	What's next	Bresnan (2021)
15	Wrap up and review	
	Final paper due	May 12

Land Acknowledgement

For millennia, the Kumeyaay people have been a part of this land. This land has nourished, healed, protected and embraced them for many generations in a relationship of balance and harmony. As members of the San Diego State University community, we acknowledge this legacy. We promote this balance and harmony. We find inspiration from this land, the land of the Kumeyaay.

Essential Student Information

- Compliance with CSU / SDSU vaccination and facial covering policies (newscenter.sdsu.edu/student_affairs/srr/covid-policies.aspx) is required.
- Your SDSU email address (gsuite.sdsu.edu) will be used for all course-related communications.
- The Student Conduct Code (newscenter.sdsu.edu/student_affairs/srr/conduct.aspx) prohibits conduct disruptive to instruction, including academic dishonesty and the unauthorized recording, dissemination, or publication (including on websites or social media) of lectures or other course materials.
- SDSU provides disability-related accommodations via the Student Ability Success Center (sascinfo@sdsu.edu | sdsu.edu/sasc). Please allow 10–14 business days for this process.
- The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) (bfa.sdsu.edu/hr/oerc/students/ferpa.aspx) mandates the protection of student information, including contact information, grades, and graded assignments. I will not post grades or leave graded assignments in public places. Students will be notified at the time of an assignment if copies of student work will be retained beyond the end of the semester or used as examples for future students or the wider public.
- As an instructor, one of my responsibilities is to help create a safe learning environment on our campus. I am required to share information regarding sexual violence on SDSU's campus with the Title IX (titleix.sdsu.edu) coordinator, Gail Mendez (619-594-6464), who will contact you to let you know about support services at SDSU and possibilities for holding accountable the person who harmed you. If you do not want the Title IX Officer notified, you can speak confidentially SDSU's Sexual Violence Victim Advocate (619-594-0210) or Counseling and Psychological Services (619-594-5220, psycserv@sdsu.edu).
- Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student's legal name. Please let me know if you would prefer an alternate name and/or gender pronoun.
- Need help finding an advisor, tutor, counselor, emergency economic assistance, or other support? Contact the SDSU Student Success Help Desk (studentsuccess.sdsu.edu) Monday through Friday, 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM.
- For technical or computing assistance, contact the Library Computing Hub (virtual-academic-help.sdsu.edu/technology).

Absences

- According to the University Policy File, students should notify the instructors of affected courses of planned absences for religious observances by the end of the second week of classes.
- If you are absent more than five days due to illness or injury, you may contact Student Health Services (shs.sdsu.edu/index.asp) for help in communicating your absence.
- If you miss class because you have been diagnosed with or are required to quarantine due to exposure to COVID-19, contact vpsafrontdesk@sdsu.edu to notify the university

Academic Honesty

The University adheres to a strict policy prohibiting cheating and plagiarism, including

- Copying, in part or in whole, from another's test or other examination.
- Obtaining copies of a test, an examination, or other course material without the permission of the instructor.
- Collaborating with another or others in coursework without the permission of the instructor.
- Falsifying records, laboratory work, or other course data.
- Submitting work previously presented in another course, if contrary to the policies of the course.
- Altering or interfering with grading procedures.
- Assisting another student in any of the above.
- Using sources verbatim or paraphrasing without giving proper attribution (this can include phrases, sentences, paragraphs and/or pages of work).
- Copying and pasting work from an online or offline source directly and calling it one's own.
- Using information found from an online or offline source without giving the author credit.
- Replacing words or phrases from another source and inserting one's own words or phrases.

Under CSU policy, instructors must report instances of academic misconduct to the Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities for disciplinary review by the University, which may lead to probation, suspension, or expulsion. Instructors may also, at their discretion, penalize student grades on any assignment or assessment discovered to have been produced in an academically dishonest manner.