

# Ling 795 Seminar: Constructionalization

San Diego State University

Schedule # 22204

Fall 2021

We 4:00pm–6:40pm

PSFA-437

In this course, we will look at morphosyntactic change from the point of view of Construction Grammar (CxG). In CxG, grammatical knowledge is modeled as a network of patterns of form/meaning pairings. This perspective allows a unified framework for thinking about lexical change, morphological development, and syntactic change. We will begin by reading Traugott and Trousdale (2013), a recent synopsis of work in construction-oriented historical linguistics, and then, based on issues that come up during class discussion, dig into the primary literature on key topics in constructional change.

## Instructor

Prof. Rob Malouf

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Office hours: Tue & Thu 1:00pm–2:00pm, or by appointment

Real office: SHW 244

Zoom office: [sdsu.zoom.us/j/88612436627](https://sdsu.zoom.us/j/88612436627)

Students are provided with an SDSU Gmail account, and this SDSU email address will be used for all communications. University Senate policy notes that students are responsible for checking their official university email once per day during the academic term. For more information, please see Student Official Email Address Use Policy here: [senate.sdsu.edu/policy-fil e/policies/facilities#collapsed20e126\\_12](https://senate.sdsu.edu/policy-fil e/policies/facilities#collapsed20e126_12)

## Student Learning Outcomes

The goals of this course are for participants to gain experience in:

- understanding current theoretical approaches to constructional change and constructionalization,
- reading and evaluating the primary literature,

- presenting and discussing research material with peers,
- identifying open research questions,
- applying descriptive and theoretical concepts to novel linguistic data.

Through the term, participants (including auditors!) will present and discuss articles from the reading list, which cover a number of aspects of constructional change.

## Course Materials

There is no textbook for this course. We will begin by working through:

Traugott, Elizabeth Closs and Graeme Trousdale. 2013. *Constructionalization and Constructional Changes*. Oxford University Press.

Additional readings for each will be posted on the class Canvas site. The specific readings will depend on the interests of the participants.

## Course Design

Each week, we will discuss one or more papers from the research literature on linguistic constructional change. We'll take turns leading the discussions, but everyone should be sure to read the papers in advance. To help focus on what's most relevant, I will give you discussion questions to keep in mind while you are reading. You will need to post your answers to the questions via Canvas.

In addition to leading and participating in discussions, students taking the class for a grade will also prepare a final research project. The final grade will be based on class participation, discussion questions, and on the final project:

Project outline	Dec 10	20%
Final project	Dec 17	50%
Discussion questions	—	10%
Class presentations	—	20%

## University Policies

Effective Fall 2021, students who register for face-to-face classes are expected to attend as indicated in the course schedule. Faculty teaching face-to-face courses will not be required to create a new, alternative on-line class as an accommodation for any student.

Students with medical conditions that would present a COVID-related risk in a face-to-face instructional setting should contact the Student Ability Success Center ([sdsu.edu/sasc](https://sdsu.edu/sasc)) to begin the process of getting support. Students who do not adhere to the Covid19 Student Policies ([csrr.sdsu.edu](https://csrr.sdsu.edu)) or the directives of their faculty will be directed to leave the classroom and will be referred to the Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities.

Do not come to campus if you do not feel well. Remain home and monitor your symptoms and seek medical attention as needed.

### **Campus vaccination policy**

On July 27, 2021, the California State University (CSU) system announced that students, faculty, and staff, including auxiliary employees will need to be immunized against SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, with a vaccine record on file in order to access campus this fall. As outlined by the CSU, this requirement is not contingent on the full U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approval, and therefore removes some of the earlier uncertainty regarding the policy's effective date.

SDSU will continue to operate in accordance with all federal, state, and county public health guidelines, and in compliance with CSU policies. The university will continue to prioritize the safety of students, faculty, staff, and community, while seeking to fulfill its educational mission. Visit the university's COVID-19 website ([sacd.sdsu.edu/student-health-services/covid-19](https://sacd.sdsu.edu/student-health-services/covid-19)) frequently, as the site is updated with current information.

### **Campus facial covering policy**

SDSU's full facial covering policy is available online ([sacd.sdsu.edu/student-health-services/covid-19/general-prevention#facial-covering-policy](https://sacd.sdsu.edu/student-health-services/covid-19/general-prevention#facial-covering-policy)) and may be updated again in the fall. Please refer to this URL for any fall 2021 updates, as the site will be kept current.

### **Medical-related absences**

Students are instructed to contact their professor/instructor/coach in the event they need to miss class, etc. due to an illness, injury or emergency. All decisions about the impact of an absence, as well as any arrangements for making up work, rest with the instructors. Student Health Services (SHS) does not provide medical excuses for short-term absences due to illness or injury. When a medical-related absence persists beyond five days, SHS will work with students to provide appropriate documentation. When a student is hospitalized or has a serious, ongoing illness or injury, SHS will, at the student's request and with the student's consent, communicate

with the student's instructors via the Vice President for Student Affairs and may communicate with the student's Assistant Dean and/or the Student Ability Success Center.

### **Resources for students**

Need help finding an advisor, tutor, counselor, or require emergency economic assistance? The SDSU Student Success Help Desk ([studentsuccess.sdsu.edu](https://studentsuccess.sdsu.edu)) is here for you. Student assistants are available during the academic term via Zoom Monday through Friday, 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM to help you find the office or service that can best assist with your particular questions or concerns.

A complete list of all academic support services—including the Writing Center and Math Learning Center—is available on the Student Affairs' Academic Success website ([go.sdsu.edu/student\\_affairs/academic\\_success.aspx](https://go.sdsu.edu/student_affairs/academic_success.aspx)). Counseling and Psychological Services (619-594-5220, [sdsu.edu/cps](https://sdsu.edu/cps)) offers a range of psychological services for students. Emergency support is available after hours at the same phone number. The San Diego Access and Crisis Line can also be accessed 24 hours/day (1-888-724-7240).

### **Academic honesty**

The University adheres to a strict policy prohibiting cheating and plagiarism. Examples of academic dishonesty include but are not limited to:

- 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 work to be presented 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 rules 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 your own;
- using information you find from an online or offline source without giving the author credit;
- replacing words or phrases from another source and inserting your own words or phrases.

Unauthorized recording or dissemination of virtual course instruction or materials by students, especially with the intent to disrupt normal university operations or facilitate academic dishonesty, is a violation of the Student Conduct Code. This includes posting of exam problems or questions to on-line platforms. Violators may be subject to discipline.

The California State University system requires instructors to report all instances of academic misconduct to the Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities. Academic dishonesty will result in disciplinary review by the University and 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.

### **Classroom conduct standards**

SDSU students are expected to abide by the terms of the Student Conduct Code in classrooms and other instructional settings. Prohibited conduct includes:

- Willful, material and substantial disruption or obstruction of a University-related activity, or any on-campus activity.
- Participating in an activity that substantially and materially disrupts the normal operations of the University or infringes on the rights of members of the University community.
- Unauthorized recording, dissemination, or publication (including on websites or social media) of lectures or other course materials. This includes posting of exam problems or questions to on-line platforms.
- Conduct that threatens or endangers the health or safety of any person within or related to the University community, including physical abuse, threats, intimidation, or harassment; or sexual misconduct.

Violation of these standards will result in referral to appropriate campus authorities.

### **Accommodations**

SDSU via the Student Ability Success Center (SASC) provides accommodations for students with documented disabilities or medical conditions covered under the Americans with Disabilities

Act (ADA). In keeping with current public health guidance, I cannot provide arrangements to students without an ADA-qualified disability or medical condition.

If you are a student with a disability and are in need of accommodations for this class, please contact the Student Ability Success Center at [sascinfo@sdsu.edu](mailto:sascinfo@sdsu.edu) (or go to [sasc.sdsu.edu](http://sasc.sdsu.edu)) as soon as possible. Please know accommodations are not retroactive, and I cannot provide accommodations based upon disability until I have received an accommodation letter from the Student Ability Success Center. SASC registration and accommodation approvals may take up to 10–14 business days, so please plan accordingly.

### **Student privacy and intellectual property**

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) mandates the protection of student information, including contact information, grades, and graded assignments. I will use Canvas to communicate with you, and 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. Students maintain intellectual property rights to work products they create as part of this course unless they are formally notified otherwise.

### **Religious observances**

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.

### **Sexual violence / Title IX mandated reporting**

As an instructor, one of my responsibilities is to help create a safe learning environment on our campus. I am a mandated reporter in my role as an SDSU employee. It is my goal that you feel able to share information related to your life experiences in classroom discussions, in your written work, and in our one-on-one meetings. I will seek to keep the information you share private to the greatest extent possible. However, I am required to share information regarding sexual violence on SDSU's campus with the Title IX coordinator, Gail Mendez (619-594-6464). She (or her designee) will contact you to let you know about accommodations and support services at SDSU and possibilities for holding accountable the person who harmed you. Know that you will not be forced to share information you do not wish to disclose and your level of involvement will be your choice. If you do not want the Title IX Officer notified, instead of disclosing this information to your instructor, you can speak confidentially with the following people on campus and in the community. They can connect you with support services and discuss options for pursuing a University or criminal investigation. Sexual Violence Victim Advocate 619-594-0210

or Counseling and Psychological Services 619-594-5220, [psycserv@sdsu.edu](mailto:psycserv@sdsu.edu). For more information regarding your university rights and options as a survivor of sexual misconduct or sexual violence, please visit [titleix.sdsu.edu](http://titleix.sdsu.edu) or [sdsutalks.sdsu.edu](http://sdsutalks.sdsu.edu).

### **SDSU Economic Crisis Response Team**

If you or a friend are experiencing food or housing insecurity, or any unforeseen financial crisis, visit [sdsu.edu/ecrt](http://sdsu.edu/ecrt) for more information or to submit a request for assistance.

SDSU's Economic Crisis Response Team (ECRT) aims to bridge the gap in resources for students experiencing immediate food, housing, or unforeseen financial crises that impact student success. Using a holistic approach to well-being, ECRT supports students through crisis by leveraging a campus-wide collaboration that utilizes on- and off-campus partnerships and provides direct referrals based on each student's unique circumstances. ECRT empowers students to identify and access long-term, sustainable solutions in an effort to successfully graduate from SDSU. Within 24 to 72 hours of submitting a referral, students are contacted by a member of ECRT and are quickly connected to the appropriate resources and services.

For students who need assistance accessing technology for their classes, visit our ECRT website ([sdsu.edu/ecrt](http://sdsu.edu/ecrt)) to be connected with the SDSU library's technology checkout program. The technology checkout program is available to both SDSU and Imperial Valley students.