This is a short, one-term course intended to give you an introduction to the aims and methods of linguistics. The course will consist of one one-hour lecture per week (at 10 a.m. on Tuesdays, in Bentham SR3) and one back-up class at times and places shown on the attached list. Anyone is welcome to attend the lectures, but the back-up classes (with Vikki Janke) are designed for students from UCL who fall into one of the following categories:

a) First year undergraduates reading for the **BA in Linguistics** or **Italian & Linguistics**.
b) **Affiliate students** who have little or no knowledge of syntax.
c) Students on other course-unit degrees taking PLINS101 for credit.
d) Students for the MA in Linguistics with serious worries about their knowledge of syntax

There will be three back-up classes. If your name does not appear on the attached sheet, or if the time specified for you is impossible, see Vikki or me. Students from other departments and colleges (e.g. Birkbeck, SOAS, QM) must fill in the appropriate registration form.

The aims of the course are three-fold:

a) To give you a grounding in one version of current linguistic theory.
b) To give you practice in analysing linguistic data.
c) To expose you to a language typologically very different from English.

The course will be evaluated on the basis of a one-hour written exam (30%) and eight cumulative exercises (70%), in which you will be asked to analyse data from a language you (probably) don't know and formalise that analysis. The first of these exercises will be distributed next week when further details will be provided. The homework and exam are **obligatory** for those who are taking the course for credit, they are **optional** for others. To pass the course you must complete at least five of the homework exercises and sit the exam (to be held on Wednesday 15th December, 2004).

**If you want a good mark, you are strongly advised to do all eight home-work assignments.**

The course will not be tied directly to any book, but is loosely based on Andrew Radford's (2004) textbook: *English Syntax: An Introduction* (CUP). You should read this introduction (at least chapters 1 – 8) this term.

As additional reading you are advised to study:


Background reading can be found in:


For unfamiliar terminology, refer to the glossary in Radford (2004) or to:


*You are recommended to buy books marked with an asterisk.

Any part of any of these books would provide a basis for discussion at back-up classes. These
classes are intended to provide a forum where you can raise problems and issues of interest or concern to you, whether or not they have been explicitly dealt with in lectures. The schedule of lectures, which provides an outline syllabus of the course, is given below:

1. Competence/performance; acceptability and its determinants
   Sentence/Utterance/Proposition
   Types of evidence for Rules

2. Types of knowledge (Lexical, Phonological, Syntactic, Morphological)
   Categories (Parts of speech) and subcategorisation
   Argument structure – the theta criterion; Adjuncts
   Reading: Radford, 2004, ch.2.

3. Phrase structure and the notion ‘constituent’
   Merge: VP, IP, NP, DP, PP, CP.
   ‘Sister, mother, daughter, dominate, projection, recursion’
   Head/Complement/ Specifier

4. Arguments for constituency:
   Semantic units, substitutability
   Pro-forms, movement, coordination, ellipsis and sentence fragments

5. Lexical and Functional categories
   Empty categories – PRO, null auxiliaries
   Contraction phenomena
   Reading: Radford, 2004, ch.4.

Reading Week

6. Syntactic features
   Checking theory; case
   Convergent and crashing derivations

7. Phrase structure revisited
   X’ theory (V’, N’)
   Head movement (V to I to C); traces

8. Strength of inflection
   Operator movement (esp. Wh-Questions and Topics) and arguments for it:
   Subcategorisation, agreement, reflexives, idioms, quantifier gaps, case

9. Selection and locality; c-command
   Case revisited – the case filter

10. Principles and parameters
    UG: Structure-dependence, Endocentricity, No crossing branches, HMC, Locality revisited

Specific reading for the second half of term will appear on the relevant hand-outs.

NVS – 5.10.04