

Ling696A: Syntax and Semantics Seminar
Possession Fall 2002

Who: Heidi Harley
When: Wed. **4-6:30 PM**
Where: Modern Languages 203

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What: This seminar will look at the syntax, semantics and morphosyntax of possession constructions in a variety of languages. It'll be organized as follows:

Organization: Each week we will read & discuss two papers, one about possession in the DP, one about possession in the VP. Most weeks, I'll present one and one of you will present the other; a couple of times I'll opt out, or we'll have a guest speaker. Towards the end of term, you'll all get 30 minutes to present and discuss your own work.

Evaluation: Grades will be 5% on your participation (read: attendance, doing the readings and discussion in class), 5% on your QuestionAndAnswer, 20% on your paper presentation, 20% on your own work presentation, and 40% on your final paper.

Deadline for final paper: Dec. 7th.

Content: We can negotiate about the papers that you all present; if you have one in mind to present, let me know and I'll let you know if I think it's suitable. If you don't have one in mind, I'll suggest one. We should have the complete roster of papers down by next week's class. Papers will either be in e-format (journal articles; I'll email you all the .pdfs), or available in hardcopy in the department for copying, two weeks before they're presented.

Huh? What's the QuestionAndAnswer?

Every student doing a presentation will be assigned another student, whose job will be to ask the presenting student a Question about the paper being presented. The Question must be in writing, a week or a few days before the presentation, so as to give the presenter time to research the answer. The Question and Answer will be part of the presenter's handout. Questions need not be long or involved or anything, it's just to ensure that a couple of brains work actively on each reading (as opposed to passively absorbing it). If it's a really big Question, the Questioner must help the presenter to discover the Answer.

Everybody PLEASE bring their copy of each paper to each class, for reference during discussion.