

Ling 504: Advanced Syntactic Theory
Spring 2009

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Office hours: Wednesday 10-11 am, or by appointment!

Book to buy:
Chomsky, N. 1995. *The Minimalist Program*. Cambridge: MIT Press

I didn't order it; you should be able to find it online or in town or from fellow students easily.

Requirements:

Participation (problem set work & discussion)	15%	
Official question & answer	10%	(online)
Short paper review & critique	15%	DUE: Feb 26
Original research paper:		
Topic statement & preliminary bibliography	15%	DUE: March 12
Presentation	10%	
Draft	10%	DUE: April 23
Final version	25%	DUE: May 5

This course is reading intensive. It may not look that way -- only seldom is more than one reading per week assigned -- but most of the time you are reading Chomsky, who is *extremely* dense and requires intense cognitive effort to follow. You should plan on at least **6 hours a week** to do the readings. I'm not fooling.

Timeline:

Jan 15 (today): Syllabus review. To review on D2L: David Pesetsky's excellent class notes from the MIT equivalent of 503. The problem sets we'll be working on in class are based directly on them.

Week 1

OQ:

Jan 20 Problem set work

Jan 22 Introduction and chapter 1 of *The Minimalist Program*, pp. 1-127

Week 2

HH in Utrecht

OQ:

Jan 27 Problem set work

Jan 29 Lasnik, Howard. 1992. Case and expletives: Notes toward a parametric account. *Linguistic Inquiry* 23.3, 381-407

- Week 3** OQ:
Feb 3 Problem set work
Feb 5 Chapter 2 of *The Minimalist Program*, pp. 129-166
- Week 4** OQ:
Feb 10 Problem set work
Feb 12 Rivero, Maria Luisa. 1994. Clause structure and verb movement in the languages of the Balkans. *Natural Language and Linguistic Theory* 12, 63-120
- Week 5** OQ:
Feb 17 Problem set work
Feb 19 Chapter 3 of *The Minimalist Program*, pp.167-217
- Week 6** OQ:
Feb 24 Problem set work
Feb 26 Bobaljik, J. D. and D. Jonas. 1996. Subject positions and the roles of TP. *Linguistic Inquiry* 27.2 (Spring, 1996), pp. 195-236
- Week 7** OQ:
March 3 Problem set work
March 5 Part 1 of Chapter 4 of *The Minimalist Program*, pp. 220-316 (end section 4.6)
- Week 8** OQ:
March 10 Problem set work
March 12 Lasnik, H. 1995. Case and expletives revisited: On Greed and other human failings. *Linguistic Inquiry* 26.4, pp. 615-633
- March 17 MIDTERM BREAK
March 19 MIDTERM BREAK
- Week 9** OQ:
March 24 Part 2 of Chapter 4 of *The Minimalist Program*, pp. 316-379
March 26 Richards, N. 1998. The Principle of Minimal Compliance. *Linguistic Inquiry* 29.4, pp. 599-629
- Week 10** OQ:
March 31 Presentation & discussion of research projects
Student 1
Student 2
April 2 Chomsky, N. 1999. Derivation By Phase
- Week 11** OQ:
April 7 Presentation & discussion
Student 3
Student 4

April 9 Legate, J. A. 2003. Some interface properties of the phase. *Linguistic Inquiry* 34.3, 506-516.

Week 12

OQ:

April 14 Presentation & discussion

Student 5

Student 6

April 16 Chomsky, N. 2001. Beyond Explanatory Adequacy.

Week 13

OQ:

April 21 Presentation & discussion

Student 7

Student 8

April 23 McCloskey, James. 2002. Resumption, Successive Cyclicity and the Locality of Operations. In *Derivation and Explanation in the Minimalist Program*, edited by Samuel Epstein and Daniel Seely. Oxford: Blackwell.

Week 14

OQ:

April 28 Presentation & discussion

Student 9

Student 10

April 30 Presentation & discussion

Student 11

Student 12

Week 15

OQ:

May 5 Presentation & discussion

Student 13