

Ling 504: Advanced Syntactic Theory
Spring 2011

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Book to buy (online):
Chomsky, N. 1995. *The Minimalist Program*. Cambridge: MIT Press
Boskovic and Lasnik (eds) *Minimalist Syntax: The Essential Readings*, edited, a 2006 book from Routledge

This class will build on the content taught in LING/SLAT 403/503, "Foundations of Syntactic Theory". We will develop an understanding of modern Minimalist syntactic theory, and work on syntactic analysis skills through workshopping problem sets in-class. By the end of the semester, you will be able to read original literature in modern syntactic theory, and will have developed an original proposal concerning some syntactic issue (drawing on data in any language or languages in which you are interested). For the

Requirements:

Participation (problem set work & discussion in-class)	25%	
Short paper: Brief literature review & critique	15%	March 21
Original research paper:		
Topic statement & preliminary bibliography	15%	Feb 28
Presentation	10%	
Draft	10%	April 11
Final version	25%	May 2

This course is reading intensive. It may not look that way -- only seldom is more than one reading per week assigned -- but a lot of the time you are reading Chomsky, who is *extremely* dense and requires intense cognitive effort to follow.

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 2 Jan 24

Problem set work
Chapt 1, 3 of *The Minimalist Program*

Week 3 Jan 31

Problem set work
Chapt 3 of *The Minimalist Program*

Week 4 Feb 7

Problem set work
Chapt 4 of *The Minimalist Program*

Week 5 Feb 14

Problem set work
Chapt 4 of *The Minimalist Program*

Week 6 Feb 28

Boskovic & Lasnik
another paper from lit

Week 7 March 7

Boskovic & Lasnik
another paper from lit

Week 8 March 14 MIDTERM BREAK

Week 9 March 21

Boskovic & Lasnik
another paper from lit

Week 10 March 28

Boskovic & Lasnik
another paper from lit

Week 11 April 4

Boskovic & Lasnik
another paper from lit

Week 12 April 11

Boskovic & Lasnik
another paper from lit

Week 13 April 18

Boskovic & Lasnik
another paper from lit

Week 14 April 25

Boskovic & Lasnik
another paper from lit

Week 15 May 2

Boskovic & Lasnik
another paper from lit