

LIN 6932 Syntax Seminar: Agreement

T 4, R 4-5th per

Dauer 68

Instructor: Brent Henderson

Office: Turlington 4125

Office Hours: Wed 3-4; Thur 7th and by appt.

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Course website on Canvas

Course Content/Objectives

It's of a strange thing that features of one element in a phrase often get realized on another. It's even stranger that languages should vary in so wildly in the extent to which they allow such phenomena. Understanding the syntax and morphology of Agreement is the focus of this course. The goals of the course are to become broadly familiar with issues in the syntax of agreement and recent theoretical accounts (since Chomsky 2001). Specific topics are listed in the course schedule below.

Students will develop critical reading and research skills as they engage primary literature on the topic of agreement and work throughout the semester to identify an agreement puzzle and develop it into an independent research project, resulting in a paper.

Prerequisites

LIN 6501, Syntax I, is a required prerequisite.

Required Readings:

All required readings are listed below in the tentative schedule and bibliography. The papers listed will be discussed on the day they are listed; therefore, you should have read those papers before coming to class on that day. The schedule is open to adjustment if time constraints or class interest demands it. All readings will be made available on our course website on Canvas under fair use guidelines and for the purposes of this course only. Please do not distribute them without the author's permission.

Course website:

We will use Canvas. The latest version of the syllabus as well as all readings and assignments will always be posted there. In addition, we will use Canvas for engaging in out of class discussions.

Course Requirements:

Class Participation:	15%
Article Presentation	15%
Final Paper Presentation:	15%
Final Paper:	55%

Class Participation

Students are expected to come to class having done the readings and be reading to discuss them and ask questions. Many of the readings will be difficult and require slow reading, repeated reading, and/or note taking. You should set aside sufficient time to engage well. Bringing notes with questions to class is also encouraged. In addition, you are required to post one question to our Canvas discussion board by midnight the day before class. The question should relate to the next day's reading or topic in some way and must be contentful (not simply something like 'What does XYZ mean?' or 'What does the author mean by XYZ?' with no other content).

Article Presentation:

Each student must present an article to the class. The article must deal with the nature of agreement and be approved by me. The presentation should include a summary of the background and goals of the paper, connection to other readings we have discussed, a demonstration of the proposal and chief arguments of the paper, it's predictions and any difficulties or questions that arise. Presentations should use a handout and/or slides (your choice) and engage the class in discussion. You should plan on a presentation that is no longer than 25-30 minutes, using the rest of the class period for discussion and questions.

Final Paper and Presentation:

Through the semester, you will develop your own research projected centered around some sort of agreement phenomenon or proposal. Your paper must be entirely your own and must make some sort of original contribution, going beyond critical reviews and summaries of the existing literature. Your paper must be well-organized and be clear about what your original contribution is. At the end of the semester, you must present your project to the class, walking us through your data and arguments.

I will work with each of you this semester to develop your project. To give us some deadline goals, here is a timeline for development:

Final Paper Timeline

March 1~12th	Schedule a meeting with me to discuss your topic
March 26th	One page proposal due
April 18th	Class presentations
April 26th	Final Papers due

Tentative Schedule. The schedule below is subject to change based on pace of the course, possible travel, guest lecturer availability, etc. An up to date version of the syllabus/schedule will be on Canvas.

Wk	Dates	Topics	Readings
Overviews; Mechanics; Agreement and Case			
1	1/8	Introduction	None
	1/10	Overview	Adger and Harbour 2008
2	1/15-17	Mechanics of Agree	Chomsky 2001, Pesetsky & Torrego 2007
3	1/22-24	Case and Agreement	Bobaljik 2008; Diercks 2012; Polinsky 2016
Agreement and Clitics			
4	1/29-31	PCC	Bejar and Rezac 2003 Nevins 2011
5	2/5-7	(Doubled) Clitics and Agreement	Harizanov 2014; Yuan 2017; Baker & Kramer 2018
Agreement and Locality			
6	2/12	Clitics and Agreement No Class 2/14	Yuan 2017; Baker and Kramer 2018
7	2/19-21	Long Distance Agreement	Dr. Potsdam's choice!
8	2/26-28	Complementizer Agreement	Diercks 2013; van Koppen 2017
	3/5-3/7	SPRING BREAK	
Directionality of Agreement			
9	3/12-14	Directionality	Baker 2008 (ch 1, 2); Bjorkman & Zeijlstra 2014; Preminger and Polinsky 2015
Concord			
10	3/19-21	Concord in NP	Carstens 2000; Norris 2014 (Ch 3)
11	3/26-28	Student article presentations	
12	4/2-4	TBA	Dr. Martinovic's choice!
Re-evaluating Agree			
13	4/9-11	Agreement and its Failures	Preminger 2014 (Ch 1-5)
14	4/16	TBA	
	4/18	Student Research Presentations	

15	4/23	Wrap up	
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Other information:

Academic Honesty

Academic misconduct is taken very seriously at the University of Florida and in this classroom, including cheating, attempts at cheating, and plagiarism. Violations may result in disciplinary action, including failure of assignments, the course, or other consequences. As stated in the student honor code policy, all work submitted for credit by students at UF, “the following pledge is either required or implied: On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” More information is available here:

<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>

Accommodations for students with disabilities.

Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation. More information at: <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc>

Course evaluations.

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course based on 10 criteria. These evaluations are conducted online at: <https://evaluations.ufl.edu> Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at: <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results>

Bibliography

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