



PLIN0053: Interfaces in Syntax

2019/20 Module information sheet

Lecturer: Ad Neeleman (a.neeleman@ucl.ac.uk), Rm 110

Backup tutor: TBC

Course description

This course deals with one or more topics that involve the interface between the syntax and a syntax-external system. The latter could be the interpretive system, the phonology, or the parser. The exact contents of the course change from year to year, to reflect developments in the field and the lecturer's own research. However, the course will always involve the reading of recent research papers and class presentations by students.

Topics

In this course, we will look at four phenomena that involve interactions between syntax and semantic interpretation: Person, Causation, Information Structure and extraction from Asymmetric Coordination. Person is relevant to morphology and agreement, and involves deictic notions such as speaker and addressee; Causation is a relation between events whose syntactic expression is relevant to theta theory; Information Structure involves notions like topic, focus and contrast, and is relevant to word order; extraction from asymmetric coordination may shed light on the relation between asymmetry in interpretation and asymmetry in structure. About half our time, or a little more, will be devoted to lectures; the remaining time will be used for group work and presentations.

Prerequisites: Term 1 of PLING227 (or equivalent)

Timetable available at

<https://timetable.ucl.ac.uk/tt/moduleTimet.do?firstReq=Y&moduleId=PLIN0053&acadYearFl=N>

Communication

Contact the lecturer via email (see above). Students are encouraged to post questions about course material on the Moodle discussion forum.

Workload

Lectures and backups: 3-4 hours per week Reading and revision: 5-7 hours per week

Basic texts (If applicable)

It would be useful to keep a good textbook handy for revision of important concepts (in particular, those that you encountered in PLING121/PLING227 in Term 1). Some recommended textbooks:

Carnie, Andrew (2002). *Syntax: a generative introduction*. Malden, MA: Blackwell.

Haegeman, Liliane (1994). *An introduction to Government and Binding Theory*. Malden, MA: Blackwell.

Haegeman, Liliane (2006). *Thinking syntactically*. Malden, MA: Blackwell.

Ouhalla, Jamal (1999). *Introducing transformational grammar*. London: Arnold.

Radford, Andrew (2004). *English syntax: an introduction*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Other readings will be set throughout the course, but teaching will initially be based on:

Person: Ackema, P., and A. Neeleman (2013b). Person Features and Syncretism. *Natural Language and Linguistic Theory* 31:901-950.

Causation: Neeleman, A., and H. van de Koot (2012b) The Linguistic Expression of Causation. In M. Everaert et al. (eds.) *The Theta System: Argument Structure at the Interface*. Oxford: OUP. pp. 20-51.

Other key texts will be made available on Moodle.

Libraries and other resources

Where possible, all further reading will be made available via Moodle.

Feedback – all students registered for this course will receive information on how to complete a web-based questionnaire at the end of the course. Your feedback is much appreciated and helps us to improve the course.