

## Study guide – Exam 2 – Syntax

**Exam: Wednesday, April 11**

The exam will have an in-class portion and a take-home portion; the take-home portion will be due in class (or by class time, if you aren't in class) on Friday, April 13. You are welcome to use any resources you like on the take-home portion, but you must work alone and the normal rules of academic honesty apply.

You may bring a note sheet (two sides of a piece of paper) to the in-class portion of the exam; see the syllabus for details about what can be on your note sheet.

If you're sick, or some horrible disaster befalls you such that you can't take the exam at class time, please let me know ASAP, ideally before class time, and we can arrange for a makeup. If you miss the exam in class, you'll need to provide documentation of the reason for your absence.

### Be able to...

- ...perform constituency tests for NPs, VPs, and PPs.

It's even more important to know when to perform the constituency tests. **Any time you're asked to find phrases, or asked how you know what phrases are where, use the constituency tests.**

- ...find all phrases in an English sentence.

The easiest way to do this is to identify all phrase heads (i.e. each N, V, and P), and then use constituency tests to find the phrase that each head is part of.

- ...find all phrases in a non-English sentence.

Remember that the foreign translations of all words in an English phrase will form a phrase in the foreign language.

- ...look at some sentences, from English or a foreign language, and write phrase structure rules that generate the sentences.

- ...use phrase structure rules to draw a syntax tree.

This means understanding the relationship between things listed in phrase structure rules and things drawn in trees.

The sets of words grouped into NPs, VPs, and PPs in a tree should pass constituency tests that correctly identify those groups of words as NPs, VPs, and PPs.

- ...write transformations that explain clearly and accurately what changes to turn a d-structure into an s-structure.

See the book for definitions of d-structure and s-structure. Understanding what the d-structure is, and how to find it, is crucial.

Like when writing morphology rules, it's important to be extremely precise in your transformation, about exactly what moves or is added, and where the change happens.

- ...understand the syntactic architecture that we've discussed: when making a sentence, the grammar first starts with a group of words, assembles them into declarative order using phrase structure rules, then creates non-declarative statements if necessary using transformations.

### **Important things to do while reviewing:**

- Go over the four syntax homework assignments. Look at the answer keys on the website to clarify things you got wrong.
- Read over the syntax section of the course packet.
- Go over the syntax in-class exercises and tips on doing various syntax skills that are on the class webpage.
- Do all this a day or two ahead of time, so you have a chance to check with me or others if things aren't clear.
- And (while this might be repetitive advice, it's important) ask me questions! Bring questions to class, come to my office hours, and e-mail me. I'm always happy to help.