**Syntax Syllabus Draft**

**Meeting 1 - Introduction**

Syntax, its nature, and its purpose and place in our lives; What does it mean to have a theory of syntax? Some concepts used in syntactic theory; An overview of the course

**Meeting 2 - Getting down to Syntax: classes of words**

Student questions; Some concepts and misconceptions about syntax

Hierarchy in language; Word Classes: Lexical vs. Functional Categories;

From words to phrases – NPs, VPs, PPs, and AdjPs

**Meeting 3 - Looking inside sentences**

Student questions; Words, phrases, More on lex. vs. functional categories

Simple sentences; Introduction to Complex Sentences; / variation

**Meeting 4 - Head words and phrases**

Student questions; Heads vs. Phrases; Where is the head?

**Meeting 5 & 6 - Constituents**

Identifying constituents – constituent structure tests

Do all languages have the same constituents?

**Meeting 7 - Constituency structure cont’d**

Student questions; Constituents in more detail – the X’ notation

Introduction to relationships within the clause

**Meeting 8 & 9 – X’ Theory**

Commonalities across phrases of different types

**–** Heads ; Specifiers, complements, and modifiers

**Meeting 10 – Case and Agreement; Relationships within the clause – finish up**

Student questions; subjects and objects

Changing grammatical relations – an introduction

**Meeting 11 – Processes that change grammatical relations**

Student questions; Deriving passive sentences; the applicative construction;

**Meeting 12 - Head movement**

**Meeting 13 & 14 – Wh-constructions: questions and relative clauses**

Student questions; Wh-questions; variation; Focus movement;

**Elements of assessment**: Attendance (10%), participation in discussion (15%), quiz (15%), assignment (15%), midterm test (20%) & final test (25%)

**References**:

* Carnie, Andrew. 2006. *Syntax: A generative grammar*, Oxford: Blackwell Publishing
* Roberts, Paul. 1964. *English Syntax*. New York: Harcourt, Brace & World, Inc.
* Radford, Andrew. 2009. *Analyzing English sentences: A minimalist approach.* Cambridge: Cambridge university press