LEHMAN COLLEGE

DEPARTMENT OF LINGUISTICS

Course Title: **LNG 321 SPV 322: Introduction to Syntax** *3 hours, 3 credits.*

Course Description: Syntax is the study of the structure of human language. This course will explore the past fifty years of generative syntactic research, with emphasis on developing analytical skills and a scientific attitude toward language. Why is the sentence, *she ate in the kitchen cake* ungrammatical in English, while *she ate cake in the kitchen* is perfectly grammatical? Why do some English speakers use auxiliary *do* in questions while others do not? How does the marker *'s* get associated with *man* rather than *bar* in the possessive phrase *the man at the bar's hat*? This course will answer these and many other questions about the structure of English. The syntactic structure of English cannot be studied fruitfully without reference to the syntactic structure of other languages; to that end, data will be drawn from many different languages and cross-linguistic comparison will be an important part of the course.

Location: Speech & Theatre 205
Meeting Times: Tuesday 12:30-3:10pm
Instructor: Michelle A. Johnson
Email: mjohnson2@gc.cuny.edu
Office Hours: Tuesday 11:00-12:00 location TBD

Course Learning Objectives:
By the end of the semester, students should be able to:

- Determine the syntactic category of any word of English.
- Describe and motivate the development of generative theories of grammar.
- Analyze the constituent structure of English sentences.
- Draw tree diagrams for a variety of sentence types.
- Describe parametric differences between English and other languages.
- Tackle new data and understand its implications for syntactic theory.

Materials:

Required Textbook: Carnie, Andrew. 2007. *Syntax: A Generative Introduction*. 2nd Edition. Blackwell Publishing. (ISBN: 978-1-4051-3384-5)

Recommended Textbook: Altenberg, Evelyn & Robert Vago. 2010. *English Grammar: Understanding the Basics*. CUP. (ISBN: 978-0-521-73216-1)

Multimedia and Technology
Students are expected to utilize both the text and the multimedia resources. There are workstations in the library and a computer lab in Carman Hall if you do not have a personal computer.

This syllabus, additional readings and multimedia links are available on the course website http://lehmansyntax.commons.gc.cuny.edu/
It will be very important that you check this website regularly. There you will find announcements, assignments and useful links. Blackboard will not be used for this course.

If you have any trouble with technology, please call the helpdesk at 718-960-1111

Accommodating Disabilities

Lehman College is committed to providing access to all programs and curricula to all students. Students with disabilities who may need classroom accommodations are encouraged to register with the Office of Student Disability Services. For more information, please contact the Office of Student Disability Services, Shuster Hall, Room 238; phone number, 718-960-8441. Accommodations will only be granted with documentation before the second week of the semester.

Academic Integrity and Plagiarism Policy

Statements on plagiarism may be found in the student handbook. For more information, refer to http://www.lehman.cuny.edu/student-affairs/documents/student-handbook-02.pdf
Lehman College does not discriminate on the basis of gender, sexual orientation, race, color, creed, national origin, religion, handicap, or political belief, in any of its educational programs and activities, including employment practices and its policies relating to recruitment and admission of students.

Tutoring/Writing Center

The Academic Center for Excellence (ACE) and the Science Learning Center (SLC) are two of the tutoring centers on campus. The ACE provides appointment based and drop-in tutoring in the humanities, social sciences, and writing, as well as general writing and academic skills workshops. The SLC provides drop-in tutoring for natural and computer science courses. To obtain more information about the ACE and the SLC, please visit their website at http://www.lehman.edu/issp, or please call the ACE at 718-960-8175, and the SLC at 718-960-7707.

Classroom Specific Policies:

Attendance at all class meetings will be taken and is expected. If you miss **more than two (2)** classes during the semester without documentation, your final grade will be reduced by **2% for each day**. It will be difficult to absorb, integrate, and utilize the information presented without attending classes. Students are expected to complete the readings and homework presented in this syllabus **prior** to scheduled lecture dates.

Grading Policy:

Your grade in this course will be based in equal parts on your completion of homework assignments, a midterm and final exam. Therefore, each component is worth 1/3 of your final grade.

96-100% = A	81-85% = B	71-75% =C
90-95% = A-	78-80% = B-	60-69% =D
86-89%= B+	76-77% =C+	Below 60= F

Late Policy:

At the discretion of the instructor, all work submitted after the deadline will be subject to a reduction in grade. Due to the nature of the course, it will be very difficult to maintain adequate progress without meeting these deadlines. Therefore, work submitted 1 day to 1 week late will have a 20% reduction; after that, it will not be graded and you will receive a 0 for the assignment.

If you miss a deadline, or know you will be late, please email or text me immediately! Please do not save assignments for the last minute. Not coming to class the day an assignment is due does not grant you an extension.

Deadlines may be adjusted from those printed in the syllabus. If you are late or miss a class, it is your responsibility to both obtain the notes and any administrative updates from your classmates.

TENTATIVE schedule of topics

WEEK & DATE	TOPIC		READING	HOMEWORK
1 1/28	Generative Grammar & Syntactic Categories – English review			
2 2/5	Syntactic Categories		Carnie C1 – ALL 2.1&2.2 Altenberg & Vago	HW1 DUE
2/12	NO CLASSES			
3 2/14	Syntactic Categories		2.3 & 2.6	HW2 DUE
4 2/19	Simple Trees		Carnie 2.4; 2.4.1 & 2.4.3 – do NOT read about top-down trees 2.5; 2.7	
5 2/26	Structural Relations		3.0; 3.1; 3.3	HW 3 DUE
6 3/5	Structural Relations		3.4; 3.5; 3.6	
7 3/12	Binding		4.0; 4.2; 4.3	
8 3/19	Binding		4.4; 4.5; 4.6	MIDTERM DUE 3/24
3/26 & 4/2	**SPRING BREAK**			
9 4/9	X-Bar Theory		5.0; 5.1; 5.2	HW 4 DUE
10 4/16	X-Bar Theory		5.3; 5.4; 5.5	
11 4/23	X-Bar Theory		6.0; 6.1	HW 5 DUE
12 4/30	X-Bar Theory		6.2	
13 5/7	Review!!			

14 5/14	X-Bar, Theta Roles		7.0; 7.1; 7.2	
5/21	X-Bar, Theta Roles		7.3; 7.4; 7.5	
	FINAL EXAMS			FINAL