

University of Jordan
Faculty of Foreign Languages
Department of Linguistics
PhD Course in Syntactic Theory(2205922)
Semester Two / 2017

Instructor: Professor Mohammad Khawaldeh
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Time: Thursday / 4.00-7.00pm

Course Description:

This course studies English syntax within the framework of the Transformational Generative Theory of grammar. It concentrates on the development of the theory in its different phases from the 1950's up to the present with special emphasis on its versions in the 1980's, 1990's and the beginnings of the third millennium. In particular, syntactic theory is studied within the frameworks of the theory of Government and Binding and the theories of Minimalism and its subsequent versions. Using a comparative approach to English, certain elements of this theory are also applied to the Arabic language.

Evaluation:

- 1- Mid-Term Exam.....30
- 2- Participation and a paper.....30
- 3- Final Exam..... 40

Term Paper:

Each student must write a well organized academic term paper on one of the topics below. It should be a comparative work (Arabic/English) written within the minimalist theory. We MUST agree on the topic and the follow up procedures.

Text books:

Aoun, J. , Benmamoun, E. & Choueiri, L. 2010. *The Syntax of Arabic*.
Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Haegeman, L. (1994, 2nd edition) *Introduction to Government and Binding Theory*. Blackwell,
Oxford.

Radford, A. (2008). *Analysing English Sentences: A Minimalist Approach*.
Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Suggested reading:

Baltin, M. & Collins, (2005). *Contemporary Syntactic theory*. Blackwell.

Mohammad, M. (2000). *Word Order, Agreement and Pronominalization in Standard and Palestinian Arabic*. John Benjamins: B.V.

Lectures:

Week one: Introduction

Week two: From PS to X-bar theory

Week three: From X-bar theory to Minimalist Approach

Week four: Null elements (in both Arabic and English)

Week five: head movement (in both Arabic and English)

Week six: wh-movement (in both Arabic and English)

Week seven: **Mid-term exam**

Week eight: A-Movement

Week nine: Agreement-case

Week ten: Agreement in Arabic

Week eleven: Split

Week twelve: Arabic Subjects

Week thirteen: phases

Week fourteen: Some problematic issues (i.e. Arabic negation, clefting, etc.)

Week fifteen: Revision

Week sixteen: **Final exam**