

## **Advanced syntax: Processing and movement**

**Semester:** B

**Lecture:** Yuval Katz, yuvalk1@mail.tau.ac.il , Tuesdays 10:15-11:45, Thursdays 12:15-13:45

**TA Sessions:**

Daniel Lachs Rabinovich, dl4@mail.tau.ac.il, Sundays 10:15-11:45

Amit Benalal, amitasherb@mail.tau.ac.il, Tuesdays 8:15-9:45

Office hours (lecturer or TAs): By appointment via email.

**Course Requirements:** Passing grade in final exam (60%), weekly assignments, special assignment. Assignments must be submitted before 12:00 on the due date via the course website (Moodle).

- Late submissions will not be accepted (unless explicitly stated otherwise).
- Assignments are graded as "Pass/Fail." To pass, all questions must be answered completely.
- If there are issues with specific questions, students should consult the TA before submission.
- Assignments should not be completed jointly. Identical or incomplete answers will be graded as "Fail".
- Missing one assignment is allowed. The second assignment not submitted or graded as "Fail" will result in a deduction of one point from the final course grade. Any additional missed assignment(s) will result in a deduction of 3 points each from the final course grade.

**Course Prerequisites:** Syntax for Beginners

**Course Description:** The course adopts the assumption that generation and processing of linguistic utterances employ the same computational tools. If so, then instances of processing breakdown can shed light on the design of the Computational System. In the first part of the course, we will concentrate on the so-called Garden Path phenomenon (e.g., After Sara drank the water evaporated). We will define the difficulty and the principles guiding processing, using syntactic devices, and explain why the human processor cannot overcome the difficulty automatically (as is clear from the fact that it is conscious). The second part of the course will explore syntactic movement and the constraints it obeys. For instance, why is it that movement of *who* is possible in "Who do you think that Dan loves?" but not in "\*Who did you meet the woman who loves?"? We will define the constraints imposed on movement, and use them to diagnose movement in structures where it is not obvious whether or not movement has applied. In sum, we will define the workings of the computational system with regard to the processing and production phenomena discussed in the course.

**Final Grade Components:**

- Weekly assignments: 11%
- Midterm quiz: 19%
- Special assignment: 10%
- Final exam: 60% (Moed A: Thursday, July 10, 2025 | Moed B: Thursday, August 7, 2025)

Course Schedule (*subject to change based on class progress*):

Date	Topic
March 18, 20, 25	Garden path phenomenon, closure units, Theta-Attachment & Theta-Reanalysis Constraint
March 27, April 1	Participial relative clause
April 3	Dominance Constraint
April 8	C-command Constraint, DCC
April 22	DMC, processing, summary
April 24	Midterm quiz
April 29	Introduction to islands
May 6	Subjacency, cycle, islands Practice
May 13, 15	Strong Crossover, islands as a diagnostic for movement, relative clauses
May 20, 22	Wh-island, CED, summary
May 27, 29, June 3	WCO, A-Movement, PIC, condition on movement
June 5	LF, Quantifier scope
June 10, 12	Quantifier raising, universal vs. existential quantifiers
June 17	Universal vs. existential quantifiers
June 19	Multiple Wh-questions, ECP, Attract
June 24, 26	Summary

**Bibliography:**

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- Chomsky, N. 1977. On wh-movement. *Formal syntax*, 71-132.
- Hazout, I. 1994. The Hebrew pronoun ze and the syntax of sentential subjects. *Lingua*, 93(4), 265-282.
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- Rizzi, L. 1980. Violations of the Wh island constraint in Italian and the subjacency condition. *Journal of Italian Linguistics Amsterdam*, 5(1), 157-195.
- Roberts, I. 1988. From Rules to Constraints. *Lingua e stile* 28,3.
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