

**Syntax for Beginners - (course) תחביר למתחילים**  
**Course syllabus**

**Name of Lecturer:** Prof. Tal Siloni, Yuval Katz

**Course no.:** 0627.2130 **Academic Year:** 2023 **Semester:** A **Number of Hours:** 6  
**Degree:** B.A

**Classes:** Tuesday 12:15-13:45 & Thursday 12:15-13:45, Webb 001

**Office hours:** Thursday 15:00-16:00, Webb 404, by appointment

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**Teaching Assistants:**

Daniel Lachs Rabinovich

**Tutorials:** Sunday 12:15-13:45

**Office Hours:** Thursday 10:00-11:00, by appointment

**E-mail Address:** [dl4@mail.tau.ac.il](mailto:dl4@mail.tau.ac.il)

Amit Benalal

**Tutorials:** Monday 10:15-11:45

**Office hours:** Monday 12:00-13:00, by appointment

**E-mail address:** [amitasherb@mail.tau.ac.il](mailto:amitasherb@mail.tau.ac.il)

Eyal Brusilovsky

**Tutorials:** Tuesday 8:15-9:45

**Office Hours:** Monday 11:00-12:00, by appointment

**E-mail Address:** [brusilovsky1@mail.tau.ac.il](mailto:brusilovsky1@mail.tau.ac.il)

**Course Prerequisites:** Intro to linguistics: Building a theory

### Reading Material:

Haegeman, Liliane (1991; 1994). *Introduction to Government and Binding Theory*, Oxford: Blackwell.

The required reading material is posted on the course website ([moodle.tau.ac.il](https://moodle.tau.ac.il)). Students will be referred to additional reading material from the bibliographic list at the end of the syllabus.

### Course Description

The course offers the foundation of syntactic theory. Anchored in the Principles and Parameters approach to linguistic knowledge, the course concentrates on the structural representation of sentences (X'-Theory), Case theory, Control and Binding Theory.

### Course Requirements

#### GRADING:

- |              |     |
|--------------|-----|
| • Quiz       | 19% |
| • Final Exam | 66% |
| • Exercises  | 15% |

Students must receive at least a passing grade (60) in the final exam in order to pass the course.

#### QUIZ:

During class, 15.2.2024

#### FINAL EXAM:

Moed A: 7.4.24

Moed B: 12.5.24

#### POLICY& REQUIREMENTS:

- Exercises will be posted (on the course website) on Thursdays and are to be submitted by the following Thursday, before the beginning of class. An exercise that was submitted late will not be accepted. If a problem arises regarding a certain question, students should consult their teaching assistant before the due date.
- Exercises will not be graded, but will be marked as either “pass” or “fail”. To receive a passing grade, all questions must be fully answered. Exercises which do not include answers to all questions or ones in which the answers are lacking will receive a failing grade. Mistakes will not affect the grade.

- You are asked not to work on exercises with other students.
- It is allowed not to submit one exercise throughout the semester. A point will be deducted from the final grade if a second exercise was not submitted or received a failing grade. 3 points will be deducted from the final grade for any additional exercise that was not submitted or received a failing grade.
- Students must follow the announcements posted on the course website: [moodle.tau.ac.il](http://moodle.tau.ac.il).
- The course staff is available for any questions or inquiries.

**Schedule:**

Lesson(s) number	Date	Topic
1	2.1	Introduction: The Principles & Parameters approach, Hierarchical structure: phrase markers, phrase structure rules
2	4.1	Hierarchical relations (dominance, precedence, c-command)
3	9.1	Non-coreference Principle
4	11.1	Lexical information: Subcategorization frames, theta grids, The Projection Principle, The Theta Criterion, Expletives
5	16.1	Expletives; Extended Projection Principle, levels of representation: S-Structure, D-Structure; movement (move- $\alpha$ )
6	18.1	Relative clauses, relative clauses vs. complement clauses
7	23.1	X-bar theory: lexical categories
8	25.1	X-bar theory: complements vs. adjuncts
9	30.1	X-bar theory: functional categories: IP
10	1.2	X-bar theory: Head Movement
11	6.2	X-bar theory: functional categories: CP
12	8.2	X-bar theory: Structure Preservation Principle, Head Movement Constraint, M-command
13	13.2	Case
14	15.2	Review session
15	20.2	The Prepositional Complementizer <i>for</i> , Exceptional Case Marking
16	22.2	<b>Quiz</b>
	27.2	<b>NO CLASS – municipal elections</b>
17	29.2	Passive, PRO
18	5.3	Exceptional Case Marking structures vs. Object Control structures, Types of chains
19	7.3	Raising Structures vs. PRO <sub>arb</sub> Constraint on A-movement
20	12.3	Binding theory: binding, binding conditions
21	14.3	Review: Binding theory, PRO

**Note: This schedule is tentative and may change as the course progresses.**

## Bibliography

Carnie, Andrew (2002). *Syntax: A Generative Introduction*, Oxford: Blackwell.

Chomsky, Noam (1965). *Aspects of the Theory of Syntax*, MIT Press.

Chomsky, Noam (1981). *Lectures on Government and Binding*, Foris: Dordrecht.

Haegeman, Liliane (1991). *Introduction to Government and Binding Theory*, Oxford: Blackwell.

Haegeman, Liliane (1994). *Introduction to Government and Binding Theory*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, Oxford: Blackwell.

Lasnik, Howard and Juan Uriagereka (1988). *A Course in GB Syntax*, MIT Press.

Radford, Andrew (1981). *Transformational Syntax*, Cambridge University Press.

Radford, Andrew (1997). *Syntactic Theory and the Structure of English*, Cambridge University Press.

Radford, Andrew (1997). *Syntax*, Cambridge University Press.

ריינהרט, טניה (1994). "מצבים מנטליים ושפה". *מחשבות* 66 עמ' 32-47. הוצאת יבמ.

Rizzi, Luigi (1988). On the Structural Uniformity of Syntactic Categories.

Reimsdijk, Henk van and Edwin Williams (1986). *Introduction to the Theory of Grammar*, MIT Press.