225: Topics in Syntax
Experimental Syntax

Course goals
The major goals of this course are to:
• critically assess the role of acceptability judgments in syntactic research
• learn how to design and run acceptability judgment experiments from start to finish
• become familiar with current thinking and debate on the proper role of experimental syntax
• critically assess the results that have been obtained in experimental syntax so far

Tentative schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading/assignment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Introduction Syntax, judgments, gradience, stability of judgments</td>
<td>Schütze (1996), ch. 2 Cowart (1997), ch. 1, 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Overview of field How to do it: experimental design, creating materials</td>
<td>Myers (2009a) Cowart (1997), ch. 3, 9</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Results of experimental syntax Veterans’ Day (Wednesday)</td>
<td>Goodall (in press)</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Student presentations</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Student presentations</td>
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Grading
10% Homework #1
10% Homework #2
15% Participation
15% Presentation
50% Paper

Details
Homework #1: Factorial design for an experiment, creation of token sets.
Homework #2: List of stimuli using Latin Square design.
Participation: You are expected to have read and thought about the readings, and to be prepared for class discussion.
Presentation: Oral presentation of proposed experiment
Paper: Written presentation/discussion of proposed experiment.

Readings
Haider, Hubert. 2007 As a matter of facts – comments on Featherston’s sticks and carrots. Theoretical Linguistics 33.381–394.
——. 2009b. The design and analysis of small-scale syntactic judgment experiments. Lingua. doi: 10.1016/j.lingua.2008.09.03