

Argument Structure – BTAN5016MA

5-credit seminar
Fall 2024

Course Description

This course is about the syntax and semantics of argument structure. Our goal will be to discuss 8 chapters from Williams (2015) and a paper on culmination phenomena in a highly interactive environment. Each class will start with a short presentation about the topic of the chapter assigned for class, followed by a student-led discussion from week 6 onwards. Every student will be assigned a topic in the second week so that they can prepare discussion points for their topic.

Textbook

Williams, Alexander. 2015. *Arguments in Syntax and Semantics*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Weekly Syllabus

Week 1 – Introduction to the course

Week 2 – Chapter 1: Syntax (pp. 11-22)

Discussion led by Éva Kardos

Week 3 – Chapter 2: Semantics (pp. 23-44)

Discussion led by Éva Kardos

Week 4 – Chapter 3: Arguments in Syntax (pp. 47-76)

Discussion led by Éva Kardos

Week 5 – Chapter 4: Arguments in Semantics (pp. 77-93)

Discussion led by Éva Kardos

Week 6 – Chapter 6: Thematic relations (pp. 121-140)

Discussion led by

Week 7 – Fall break – no class meeting

Week 8 – Chapter 7: Agent and patient (pp. 141-162)

Discussion led by

Week 9 – Chapter 10: Event structure (pp. 212-232)

Discussion led by

Week 10: no class meeting on November 12 (A make-up class will be scheduled at a later time.)

Week 11: Chapter 13: Resultatives (pp. 307-334)

Discussion led by

Week 12: Culmination phenomena across languages

<https://compass.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/inc3.12528>

Discussion led by Éva Kardos

Week 13: Review

Week 14: Endterm Test

Grading Policy

Your final grade will be calculated from the grade you receive on your participation in the in-class discussions and your grade on the endterm test.

Attendance

No more than three absences are allowed, illness included.

Place and Time

Room 56

Tuesday 8:00 a.m. – 9:40 a.m.

Contact

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Office hours: Monday 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Tuesday 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.