

Terms and Concepts in Literary and Linguistic Studies: Introduction to Minimalism

BTAN1003MA

5-credit lecture course

Fall 2026

Course Description

This course is concerned with syntactic theory and its primary goal is to provide students with the tools necessary to analyze various grammatical phenomena within the framework of Minimalism. Topics to be covered include categories and features, the Merge operation, Theta Theory, Case Theory, agreement and movement/Remerge. Although our main focus will be on the grammar of English, we will also look at data from other languages for cross-linguistic comparison.

Textbook

Koenenman, Olaf & Hedde Zeijlstra. 2017. *Introducing Syntax*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Grading

This course culminates in an exam at the end of the semester.

Weekly Syllabus

Week#	Class content	Reading assignments
Week 1	Introduction to the topic of the course	
Week 2	The Language Machine Categories and Features	pp. 1-29
Week 3	Merge	pp. 30-53
Week 4	Theta Theory	pp. 54-77
Week 5	Case Theory	pp. 78-109

Week 6	Review	
Week 7	Fall break – No class meeting	
Week 8	Agreement and Uninterpretable Features 1	pp. 110-137
Week 9	Agreement and Uninterpretable Features 2	
Week 10	Movement and Remerge 1	pp. 138-163
Week 11	Movement and Remerge 2	
Week 12	Unifying Movement and Agreement 1	pp. 164-193
Week 13	Unifying Movement and Agreement 2	
Week 14	Review	

Place and Time

Room 56

2:00 p.m. – 5:15 p.m. on Wednesdays (15-min break at 3:30 p.m.)

Contact

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Thursday 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.