

Syllabus Linguistics Syntax III

Instructor: Adam Szczegielniak
Course Time: Tue, Thu 2:50-4:10
Location: TBA
Office Hours: Thu 12-2, or by appointment. Place: Room 003, 18 Seminary Place.
Email: adam.s@post.harvard.edu
Web resource: SAKAI, and my own web page: <http://scholar.harvard.edu/adam/classes/syntax-iii>
*I have uploaded the papers to read to a temp directory, it can be accessed via:
<http://scholar.harvard.edu/adam/classes/syntax-iii/materials/resources>
click papers
User: student
Psswd: syntax
Click on SIII_EL_copy/
and you will get a list of author names, go down each directory, it will finally lead you to a pdf.*

Course Topic: Topics in Ellipsis

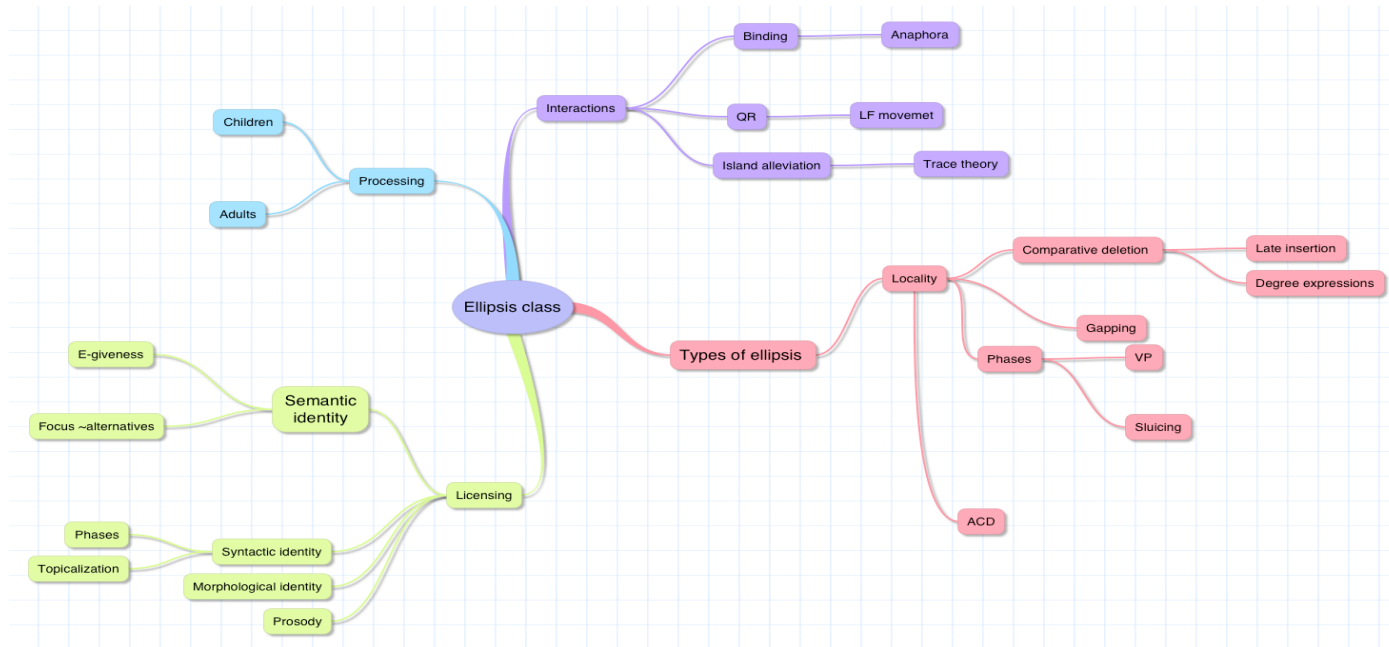
Description: This course will allow you to explore current research on ellipsis. Issues that we will explore include:

- Types of elided structures;
- Theories concerning the syntactic, semantic and morphological licensing requirements for different forms of ellipsis;
- Proposals as to the amount and type of syntactic, semantic and morphological information present in elided structures;
- The interaction between syntax and semantics can be gained from studying elliptical structures;
- The impact of experimental findings from language acquisition and sentence processing on our understanding of ellipsis.

The idea is to expose you to recent developments in ellipsis research and to explore its impact on related fields in syntax, semantics and morphology. In the first half of the course, we will read recent peer reviewed literature. The second half is divided into two parts.

In the first part, we will discuss papers that have been suggested by the class. The aim is to develop the ability to carry out independent literature research, and to prepare students for presentations. At the end, we will have student presentations.

Some examples of ellipsis research connections to other areas of linguistics.



Each week we will focus on a specific aspect of research on elided structures. The selected papers are designed to be representative of the current proposals in the field. At the same time, the readings have been selected in such a way as to provide sufficient background on the topic while also allowing students to explore questions that are not directly associated with ellipsis. Additional literature aimed at providing more in depth background can be provided on request.

Goals: The aim of this course is to practice and develop your skills in reading and researching state of the art academic literature in syntax. Another goal is to practice the ability to carry out in-depth research on one topic and use that experience to expand your work

into related field/topics. Finally, this course should help you in developing your skills to carry out independent research on any topic, not just ellipsis.

Course Prerequisites:

Syntax II.

Course Requirements:

A. You are required to attend each class.

B. You are required to read the assigned readings. I expect everyone to read each assigned paper.

C. You will be asked at the beginning of each class to give a list of your questions concerning the assigned paper. The idea is to make sure that everyone has read the paper, so questions have to be specific. At the same time, this will help you to expand on your ability to critically read literature, i.e.: (i) find out what the author claims, (ii) pinpoint the problems with the proposal, (iii) expand on the research.

D. After the first half of the class each student will be required to lead at least once a discussion on a given paper.

E. You are not expected to understand everything, however, the expectation is that you will have read the paper carefully enough to identify what you do not understand. In class, we will practice asking the right questions and exploring possible ways of getting some answers. Hence, I expect that with time, your questions will become more and more sophisticated.

F. After the first half of the course you will be asked to identify an interesting question, claim, or proposal that you would like to work on. This will be the basis for your final project. I will help you to prepare for this project, and provide you with guidelines (consult plan for deadlines).

G. As part of the final project you will be asked to propose additional literature that is not listed in this course.

H. Each student will be required to participate in a final project, either individually or in a small group. The project involves:

- submission of a one page abstract for a presentation plus bibliography (5 new papers minimum);

- evaluation of other people's abstracts (1 page max)

- giving a presentation based on the abstract (Max 30 min);

- writing a final squib/paper based on the presentation (Max 10 pages).

You can submit the abstract as a group and give a presentation as a group. Papers have to be written individually.

Course Grading:

- Question submission 25%
- Discussion leading 10%
- Abstract 20%
- Presentation 20%
- Final paper 25%

Plan (shaded area is just a suggestion, it will change depending on class preferences)

	Date	Topic	Reading	Additional/optional readings	Assignment
1	9/4	Introduction, ellipsis	May (2002)	Merchant (2001) §1	
2	9/6	Ellipsis, where, what?	Williams (1977)	Merchant (2009)	Q1
3	9/11	Focus and ellipsis	Rooth (1992)	Wagner (2006), Samek- Lodovici (2005), Schwarzschild (1999)	Q2
4	9/13	VP ellipsis	Johnson (2001)	Johnson (2009), Sobin (2008)	Q3
5	9/18	VP & vP ellipsis	Tanaka (2011)	Gribanova (2012) Merchant (2008), Otani & Whitman (1991)	Q4
6	9/20	vP ellipsis and phases	Rouveret (2012)	Toosarvandani (2009)	Q5
7	9/25	Ellipsis and Anaphora	Hankamer and Sag (1977)	Safir (2004)	Q6
8	9/27	Binding in Ellipsis A	Baltin (2002)	Safir (2012)	Q7
9	10/2	Condition C	Merchant (2000)	Baltin (2012)	Q8
10	10/4	ACD, QR	Kennedy (1997)	Bruening (2001)	Q9
11	10/9	Sluicing	Chung (1995)	Craenenbroeck & Liptak (2006), Potsdam (2007)	Q10
12	10/11	Ellipsis and Islands	Fox (2003)	Craenenbroeck & den Dikken (2006), Soh (2007)	Q11
13	10/16	Ellipsis and Traces	Hartman (2011)	Boskovic (2011)	Q12
14	10/18	Comparative deletion	Kennedy (2002)	Lechner (2004) §1,2 . Bresnan (1973)	Q13
15	10/23	Discussion of possible research topics	How to design a research topic, find papers - handout		

16	10/25	More on QR	Fox (2002)	Harley (2002), Cecchetto (2006)	Q14
17	10/30	Ellipsis Acquisition	Syrett (2011)	Matsuo & Duffield (2001), Reinhart (2004)	Q15
18	11/1	More on VP raising	Landau (2007)	Baltin (2006)	Q16
19	11/6	More on Anaphora	Williams (1997)	Safir (2004)	Q17
20	11/8	Ellipsis and questions	Arregi (2011)	Merchant (2004)	Q18
21	11/13	More on Comparatives	Kennedy & Merchant (2000)	Grimshaw (1987), Borroff (2006)	Q19
22	11/15	Processing of Ellipsis	Arregui (2006)	Clifton & Frazer (2010), Clifton (1998)	Abstract deadline
23	11/20	Discussion of abstracts			Peer Abstract Comments deadline
24	11/27	Presentations			
25	11/29	Presentations			
26	12/4	Presentations			
27	12/6	Presentations			
28	12/11	Wrap up, discussion of final papers			

I will prepare for each class a handout that will be available on-line. The papers themselves will be available for download on SAKAI.

Bibliography (includes readings and additional literature):

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