Evaluation Report for LING111 Autumn 2019

TEACHING

The course was taught using the principles and parameters (P&P) theory within the theory of Generative Grammar (more specifically, TGG). The course literature consisted of readings from Syntax: A Generative Introduction (3rd Edition) by Andrew Carnie. At the beginning of the course, we discussed the theory of Generative Grammar and the various frameworks that have stemmed from this more general theory. I introduced the framework that we would be working under and began introducing how we can analyze language using the scientific method. Next, we created basic phrase structure rules (PSRs) step by step, introducing how to use these PSRs to create a simple syntax tree. After discussing the terminology regarding a tree structure, we discussed the binding theory and its syntactic restrictions, along with domination, precedence, c-command, and government. Then we moved on to X-bar theory, slowly changing our previous basic PSRs to more advanced rules using bar levels. In the end, we were left with three general parameters that could be applied to all languages. Next, we covered Theta Theory and theta grids, the four main types of movement (V-to-T movement, T-to-C movement, DP-movement, and wh-movement), and island constraints. Finally, we discussed empty categories, Control and Raising, ellipsis, and the evolution of the P&P framework to minimalism. I gave a brief introduction of LFG at the end of the course so that the students would understand how to apply the knowledge from this course in order to understand other linguistic frameworks. I also used exercises from the book and Carnie's workbook companion throughout each lecture.

GRADES OBTAINED

A: 2

B: 3

C: 3

D: 4

E: 3

F: 2

PRACTICAL CONDITIONS

There were no problems concerning rooms, scheduling, or access to the literature. The students also did not report any problems in these areas, or issues with mitt.uib.no. (any problems with rooms, scheduling, access to literature, mitt.uib.no, etc.)

REACTIONS FROM STUDENTS

See the attached document for a copy of the evaluation survey completed by the students. One of their top concerns is that they would like more class time and time for completing exercises in class.

TEACHER'S COMMENTS AND CONCLUSIONS

The course went well in general. I had some students who were enthusiastic to participate and complete exercises outside of class time. I believe that the course would be improved with two or three smaller obligatory assignments throughout the semester. Students commented that they would have liked more time to work on more exercises and practice what they learned in the course. The addition of a few assignments outside of class will enable them to work on exercises outside of class time without having to increase the number of lecture hours.