

LING 304: Syntax I
Spring 2020
Tuesdays, 6:30–9:50pm

Instructor: Joseph Pentangelo
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Office hours: Wednesdays, 1–2pm

Website: <http://ling304.common.gc.cuny.edu>

Classroom: <https://meet.google.com/ijj-iicd-qsb>

Catalogue description:

LING 304: Syntax I

4 hours; 4 credits. This course is an introduction to syntax, the study of phrase structure in human language. Through examination primarily of English varieties, students will develop various skills in scientific analysis, such as: the identification of evidence to support hypotheses; the ability to deduce the nature of lexical and syntactic categories (such as noun, verb, noun phrase, subject, object); and the ability to recognize the abstract properties, elements, and operations which give rise to e.g. syntactic ambiguity, recursion, and the variety of surface forms we recognize as distinct “constructions,” such as active vs. passive, interrogatives, and relative clauses. Prerequisite: LING 301.

Updates (16 March 2020):

- We will be meeting online instead of in person for the rest of the semester.
- **Quiz, Exams, and Participation** sections updated to adapt to online meetings.
- Class policies on the **Class** itself and **Office Hours** updated.
- **Semester Schedule** updated.

Updates (14 February 2020):

- We will be meeting in room 2S-219 instead of 2S-220 for the rest of the semester.
- Quiz section updated to reflect that the lowest two quiz scores will be dropped.

1. Course Requirements

Required reading:

Tortora, Christina. 2018. *Understanding Sentence Structure: An Introduction to English Syntax*. Wiley Blackwell.

Grade breakdown:

- A. Weekly quizzes (30%)
- B. Three exams (20% each; 60% total)
- C. Active participation (10%)

Quizzes: Quizzes will be posted each Tuesday at 6:00pm, and due by 6:30pm the following Tuesday. Quizzes are to be submitted as emails to Joseph.Pentangelo@csi.cuny.edu. Anything you draw on paper can be submitted as either a scan or photo taken on your phone. Please ensure everything is legible. There will be a total of 11 weekly quizzes, each worth 3.33% of your final grade, with the lowest two quiz grades being dropped. (The quizzes in total are worth 30%, hence this weird number for 9 quizzes.) The quizzes are quick and are about the subject matter covered in the previous class, *not* on the readings due that day. You will never be quizzed on materials that we have not already covered in class.

Exams: There are three exams, each worth 20% of your final grade. There will be a review before each exam is given out. Exams will be posted on the course website at 9pm and will be due the following Tuesday by 6:30pm. Exams are to be submitted as emails to Joseph.Pentangelo@csi.cuny.edu. Anything you draw on paper can be submitted as either a scan or photo taken on your phone. Please ensure everything is legible.

Participation: Although we've transitioned to an online format, participation is still required. There are three ways to participate:

1. Participation during the live streams. Each week's class will be livestreamed using Google Meet, and you are encouraged to ask and answer questions and participate in discussions while there.
2. Online discussion. I've added a forum to our class website. You can post topics, reply to others' topics, ask questions, and help one another out there.
3. Visiting office hours. Office hours are still available, and you can participate either by streaming video with Google Hangouts, over the phone, or, once it's safe, in person.

Homework? This class has no homework *per se*, but you might conclude that the "quizzes" are really "homework." It's really a matter of terminology.

2. Class Policies

Class? Class will be livestreamed using Google Meet at 6:30pm on Tuesdays. Please connect to the livestream and participate much like with our in-person class. If you do not have wifi or good data at home, you can watch a recorded version of the livestream later (but see the **Participation** section above).

Office hours: I hold office hours on Wednesdays from 1–2pm. You can either have a video call with me or call me on the phone. (Email me to ask for my phone number.) When it is safe, I intend to offer in-person office hours again as well. If you are having any

trouble with the materials, have a question, or want to talk linguistics, you are encouraged to participate in office hours. Office hours can also count towards your **Participation** grade.

Syllabus: This syllabus is subject to change. Any changes will be made clear to all students, and an updated syllabus will be made available on the course website.

Plagiarism: Collaborating or forming a study group is encouraged, but this does not mean that you are allowed to copy one another's work. CSI's 2019-2020 undergraduate catalogue has this to say on plagiarism:

"Integrity is fundamental to the academic enterprise. It is violated by such acts as borrowing or purchasing assignments (including but not limited to term papers, essays, and reports) and other written assignments, using concealed notes or crib sheets during examinations, copying the work of others and submitting it as one's own, and misappropriating the knowledge of others. The sources from which one derives one's ideas, statements, terms, and data, including Internet sources, must be fully and specifically acknowledged in the appropriate form; failure to do so, intentionally or unintentionally, constitutes plagiarism. Violations of academic integrity may result in a lower grade or failure in a course and in disciplinary actions with penalties such as suspension or dismissal from the College. More information on the CUNY policies on Academic Integrity can be found in Appendix iii."

Statement on accommodations for students with disabilities: Students with disabilities will be accommodated to the full extent required by College policy. The 2019–2020 undergraduate catalogue notes that:

"The Office of Disability Services has responsibility for providing reasonable accommodations and services to students with a documented disability. The office also serves as a resource for faculty and staff in their work with CSI students with disabilities. To qualify for services, students must submit documentation to the Office and request services. All documentation is kept confidential and should be submitted directly to the Office. Services include pre-admissions counseling and accessibility information, advisement, priority registration, and testing accommodations. Assistive technology software, scientific calculators, audio recorders, and assistance in facilitating the use of alternate formats are also available. The Resource Center for the Deaf serves the specific needs of deaf and hard of hearing students providing interpreters and CART services to students who are hard-of-hearing. Interpreters are available for academic advisement, conferences with professors, and other College business. The College's policy for students with disabilities conforms to federal guidelines and the Office offers services mandated by federal and state law. All students with disabilities are

encouraged to use the services of the Office. Services are also available to students who are temporarily disabled.”

3. Semester Schedule

Week 1: Introduction – Basic Grammar Review

28 January

Reading: No reading due this week.

Week 2: The Subject Noun Phrase

4 February

Quiz 1

Reading: Finish reading chapters 1 and 2 before class.

Week 3: The Verb Phrase

11 February

Quiz 2

Reading: Finish reading chapter 3 before class.

Note that there will be no office hours on 12 February because the College will be closed.

Week 4: The Prepositional Phrase

18 February

Quiz 3

Reading: Finish reading chapter 4 before class.

Week 5: Exam 1 Review

25 February

Quiz 4

Reading: Review chapters 1—4.

Assignment: You will be given take-home exam 1 (on chapters 1–4) to be completed for our next class on 3 March.

Week 6: Sentences inside the Verb Phrase

3 March

Quiz 5

Reading: Finish reading the first half of chapter 5 before class.

Week 7: Sentences inside the Verb Phrase, continued

10 March

Quiz 6

Reading: Finish reading all of chapter 5 before class.

~Shift to Online Class~

Week 7½: Quiz 7

17 March

Quiz 7 posted, due on 24 March.

Week 8: Chapter 6

24 March

Quiz 8 posted

Quiz 7 due

Reading: Finish reading chapter 6 before class.

Week 9: Exam 2 Review

31 March

Exam 2 posted

Quiz 8 due

Bring questions to review from chapters 5 and 6.

Week 10: Extra Office Hours!

7 April

This Tuesday follows a Wednesday schedule, so there is no class today. There will be an additional period of office hours during class time instead.

14 April: Spring Break. No class. Have fun!

Note that there will be no office hours on 8 April.

Week 11: Chapter 7

21 April

Quiz 9 posted

Extra Credit Quiz posted

Exam 2 due

Reading: Finish reading chapter 7 before class.

Week 12: Chapter 8

28 April

Quiz 10 posted

Quiz 9 due

Extra Credit Quiz due

Reading: Finish reading chapter 8 before class.

Week 13: Chapter 9

5 May

Quiz 11 posted

Quiz 10 due

Reading: Finish reading chapter 9 before class.

Week 14: Exam 3 review & class wrapup

12 May

Exam 3 posted

Quiz 11 due

Bring questions to review from chapters 7–9.

Week 15: Exam 3 due

19 May

Exam 3 due