COURSE DESCRIPTION:
This course is an introduction to the formal theory of syntax. We will examine the syntactic structure of Language within the Generative framework of syntax. From this point of view, sentences are considered to be generated by a formal mathematical system of rules and constraints that are part of the linguistic knowledge of the speaker. We will see how various modules of syntactic systems interact to generate sentences, and how specific universal constraints control this generation. Topics include the lexicon, phrase structure, Case and Theta theories, binding theory, empty categories, locality and economy conditions, overt movements, covert movement, Logical Form (LF), etc. Data from a number of related and unrelated languages will be examined and discussed.

PREREQUISITES
• Undergraduate students are required to have successfully passed LING 300 with a B or higher.
• Graduate students are not required to have any background in formal syntax. However, they are expected to learn theoretical materials quickly and systematically.

REQUIRED READINGS
• PDFs of readings on the D2L site

Optional Background reading:
If you don’t have any background in syntax you may wish to review chapters from the following book before doing the assigned readings.

EVALUATION
Homework assignments 95%
Attendance and participation 5%

TOPICS (NOT NECESSARILY IN THIS ORDER)
1. Methodological foundations
2. Constituent Structure, Structural Relations, X-bar, Merge, LCA
3. Arguments, Selection, Subcategorization, thematic roles, little v
4. Functional categories
5. Binding theory
6. Case theory and DP movement
7. PRO and control
8. Wh-movement
9. Relativized Minimality and constraints on Movement
10. Covert Movement and LF
11. Head-movement
12. Scrambling, incorporation, polysynthesis
13. Issues in the biology of syntax