

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Faculty	College of Arts & Languages				
Department	English Language & Transaltion			NQF level	6
Course Title	Syntax	Code	102311	Prerequisite	Intro to Ling
Credit Hours	3	Theory	√	Practical	
Course Leader	Dr. Duaa Talafha	email	d.talafha@jadara.edu.jo		
Lecturers	Dr. Duaa Talafha	emails			
Lecture time	Sunday & tuesday 2:30-:00-4:00 pm	Classroom	C306	Attendance	Full time
Semester	First semester -2026-2027	Production	30-3-2025	Updated	10-10-2026
Type of Teaching	X ☒ Face to Face	☒ Blended		☒ Online	

Short Description

This course deals with the syntax of English sentences, focusing on traditional and transformational-generative models of grammar. It starts with establishing constituency in the English sentence and moves on to analyzing individual constituents in terms of form and function. It covers the syntax of both main and embedded clauses.

Course Objectives

1. Gain an understanding of the complexity of syntactic structures in English.
2. Identify and explain basic concepts in Syntax.
3. Analyze sentence structure using tree diagrams.
4. Examine the syntax of both main and embedded clauses.

Learning Outcomes

A. Knowledge - Theoretical Understanding

- .a1 Infer key concepts in syntax.
- .a2 Understand the difference between the phrase structure and the transformational components of syntax. .

B. Knowledge - Practical Application

- .a3 Acquire main categories needed for syntactic analysis.

C. Skills - Generic Problem Solving and Analytical Skills

- .b1 Construct different formal sentences using theories of syntactic analysis.

D. Skills - Communication, ICT, and Numeracy					
.b2 Offer and discuss solutions to main syntactic problems.					
E. Competence: Autonomy, Responsibility, and Context					
.c1 Work effectively in pairs and groups through peer evaluation of syntactic problems and how they can be solved.					
Teaching and Learning Methods					
☒ Face to Face Lectures ☒ Brain Storming ☐ Synchronous remote ☐ Asynchronous remote Using Video ☒ Discussions ☐ Research Project ☐ Case Study ☐ Field visit ☒ Problem solving					
Assessment Methods					
☒ Formative Assessment ☒ Quiz ☐ Lab Exam ☒ Homework ☐ Project Assessment ☒ Oral Presentation ☒ Midterm ☒ Final Exam					

Course Contents					
Week	Hours	CLOs	Topics	Teaching & Learning Methods	Assessment Methods
1.	3	a1+a2 +b2	Nature of Language Introduction to Syntax		Ask and answer
2.	3	a1+a2	Grammatical vs. Semantic rules; Constituency tests	Discussion, textbook-based activities	Questions
3.	3	a1+c1	Phrase structure rules; Tree diagrams	Discussion, textbook-based activities	Assignment
4.	3	a1;c1	Form and Function of constituents	Classroom discussion, textbook-based activities	Ask and answer Qs
5.	3	a2;b1	Word categories: Adverbs and prepositions	Discussion, textbook-based activities	Ask and answer
6.	3	a2+a3	Word categories: Adjectives and adjective phrases	Discussion, textbook-based activities	Questions
7.	3	a2+ b1	Word categories: verbs; Verb phrases	Discussion, textbook-based activities	Assisgment
8.		a2+b2	Verb complements vs. Adjuncts; Verb groups	Discussion	Questions
9.	3	a3 b2	The noun phrase	Discussion, textbook-based activities	Assignment
10.	3	b1	Pre- and post-modification of head nouns	Discussion, textbook-based activities	Assignment

		b2			
11.	3	b1;c1	Coordination	Discussion, textbook-based activities	Ask and answer
12.	3	a2+b1	Subordination	Discussion, textbook-based activities	Assignment
13.	3	b2	Complementizers: Wh-movement	In-class activities	Assignment
14.	3	c1 b3+	Yes-No questions; SUB-AUX inversion	In class activities	Questions
15.	3	b2+c1	Summary of Rules	Discussion, textbook-based activities	Questions
16.	3	c1	Revision	In class activity	

Infrastructure	
Reference	Kim, J.& Sells, P. 2008. English Syntax: An Introduction. Center for the Study of Language and Information.
Main textbook	Linda Thomas. (1993). Beginning Syntax. London: Wiley-Blackwell.
Required reading	
Electronic materials	
Other	

Course Assessment Plan								
Assessment Method		Grade	CLOs					
			a1	a2	a3	b1	b2	c1
First(Midterm)		30%	10	5	5	5	5	
Final Exam		50%	10	10	10	10	5	5
Coursework		20%						
Coursework assessment methods	Assignments	15%	3	3	3	3	2	2
	Case study							
	Discussion and interaction	5%	2	1		2		
	Group work activities							
	Labtests and assignments							
	Presentations							
	Quizzes							
Total		100%	25	16	17	20	15	12

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is claiming that someone else's work is your own. The department has a strict policy regarding plagiarism and, if plagiarism is indeed discovered, this policy will be applied. Note that punishments apply also to anyone assisting another to commit plagiarism (for example by knowingly allowing someone to copy your code).

Plagiarism is different from group work in which a number of individuals share ideas on how to carry out the coursework. You are strongly encouraged to work in small groups, and you will certainly not be penalized for doing so. This means that you may work together on the program. What is important is that you have a full understanding of all aspects of the completed program. In order to allow proper assessment that this is indeed the case, you must adhere strictly to the course work requirements as outlined above and detailed in the coursework problem description. These requirements are in place to encourage individual understanding, facilitate individual assessment, and deter plagiarism.