

Challenges at the Syntax-Semantics Interface

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- Meeting time: Fridays 12:15-1:45, starting Oct 27
- My email: mfowlie@coli.uni-saarland.de. Please feel free to email me with questions or to set up a meeting with me. If I don't write back within a day, please write again as between me and the email system things sometimes get lost.
- Course website: <http://meaghanfowlie.com/teaching/synsem.php>

The order of words in a sentence is determined by the syntax of the language, but this is not the only job syntax has been proposed to have. Many syntactic models assume that the meaning of the sentence is closely related to its syntactic structure. In many cases, such a relationship is straightforward, but a number of phenomena challenge this relationship. This seminar will explore some of these challenges. Topics may include free word order, raising, control, binding, quantifier and neg raising, negative polarity items, questions, and imperatives.

1. This course is about the syntax-semantics interface, and the places where it becomes less than straightforward. If the class is small we'll spend about half the time on student presentations of literature and half on exercises and lectures.

Your presentation can be on a classic paper, introductory material, or a modern paper. You might for example take a phenomenon we've looked at and see how a different formalism treats it. You might want to be the one to introduce the class to a new phenomenon. You might want to present a classic paper from the literature. You might want to present a more modern take on a phenomenon we've looked at.

Your presentation should also include a short exercise for the class to do.

Your paper can continue your presentation topic or be on something else. YOU can also do a coding project.

2. Names, questionnaire, nametags
3. Exercise: draw a representation of each of these sentences in some formalism you're familiar with.

- (1) Kaylee fixed Serenity
- (2) Kaylee wants to fix Serenity
- (3) Mal asked Kaylee to fix Serenity
- (4) Kaylee seemed to fix Serenity