

**Eötvös Loránd University • Department of English Linguistics • Syntax (BBN-ANG-251) • autumn 2018**

*Instructor* Marcel den Dikken (room 450; marcel.den.dikken@nytud.mta.hu)  
*Day/time* Wednesday, 17:15–18:00  
*Location* Building A, room 47 (Gombocz Zoltán terem)

*Description* The aim of this lecture course is to introduce and discuss fundamental syntactic notions, with particular emphasis on (i) the matrix of syntactic categories, (ii) the projection of argument structure into syntax (the Projection Principle), (iii) the constitution and constituency of syntactic phrases (X-bar theory), and (iv) the establishment of dependencies between elements in different positions in the structure (binding, movement).

*Assessment* end-of-term written exam

*The course material, and how to approach it*

This is a so-called ‘**blended course**’, consisting of three ingredients:

- (a) a **textbook** (Newson, M. *et al.* 2006, *Basic English Syntax with Exercises*, Budapest: ELTE Bölcsész Konzorcium, available on-line, free of charge, at <http://mek.oszk.hu/05400/05476/>; henceforth abbreviated as **BESE**)
- You are expected to read **the entire textbook, in full**. The textbook will present you with a complete narrative that will serve as the basis for both the lecture course and the seminar. In the lectures, we will not strictly follow the order of presentation in *BESE*. For each individual lecture, **specific readings** are assigned on a week-by-week basis (see below). It is **not** advisable to **only** read the assigned sections. Rather, the **optimal strategy** is to start reading *BESE* from p. 1 right away, to make your way through the entire textbook linearly, and to **review** the specific assigned readings in preparation for the individual lectures.
- (b) an **on-line** component (Dikken, M. den 2018, *Syntax: A First Encounter*, downloadable from the ELTE/SEAS course material site at <http://seas3.elte.hu/coursematerial/denDikkenMarcel/index.html>; henceforth abbreviated as **SAFE**)
- The on-line slide shows follow a particular path through the material presented in *BESE*, highlighting and illustrating the essentials of English syntax. *SAFE* is designed specifically for the schedule of the lecture course, with 13 installments — one for each week of instruction. **In preparation for the weekly lecture**, please watch the slide show for the relevant week. These slide shows are self-playing programmes with voice-overs. You can interrupt the slide show at any time, and can replay parts of the programme at your leisure.
- NB** For best results, the slide shows should be **downloaded** onto your computer rather than played directly from the ELTE/SEAS course material site. The optimal platform for these slide shows is Windows. Please let the instructor know if you experience difficulty accessing, downloading or playing the *SAFE* slide shows.
- (c) weekly **lectures**
- The lectures closely follow the *SAFE* slide shows, addressing specific points in further detail and inviting discussion of the material. To make the most of your participation in the lectures, you are encouraged to **come to class prepared** with **notes** on *BESE* and *SAFE*, and with **questions** that you would like to have answered. The new material for each week is presented in parts (a) and (b). The lectures will be used for additional discussion of what you have already familiarised yourself with through *BESE* and *SAFE*.

*Week-by-week programme, with assigned slide shows and readings*

**12 September** *SAFE\_01*; *BESE* Chapter 1, §1.1; Chapter 2, §§1.1–1.3

**19 September** *SAFE\_02*; *BESE* Chapter 2

**26 September** *SAFE\_03*; *BESE* Chapter 1, §§2, 3.1 and 3.5

**3 October** *SAFE\_04*; *BESE* Chapter 1, §§3.2, 3.4

**10 October** *SAFE\_05*; *BESE* Chapter 1, §§3.2, 3.4; Chapter 3, §§1.1–1.4

**17 October** *SAFE\_06*; *BESE* Chapter 3, §§1.3–1.5, 2.2.1

**24 October** *SAFE\_07*; *BESE* Chapter 5, §2

**31 October** NO CLASS (autumn break)

**7 November** *SAFE\_08*; *BESE* Chapter 3, §§2.2.2, 2.3, Chapter 6, §§1–3

**14 November** NO CLASS (instructor is away)

**21 November** *SAFE\_09*; *BESE* Chapter 7, §§1–2

**28 November** *SAFE\_10*; *BESE* Chapter 7, §3

**5 December** *SAFE\_11*; *BESE* Chapter 7, §4; Chapter 4

**12 December** *SAFE\_12*, *SAFE\_13* (summary); *BESE* Chapter 8, §2.2 (esp. pp. 300–2), and pp. 91, 207–8

*Other useful resources* [optional reading]

Carnie, A. (2002). *Syntax: A Generative Introduction*. Oxford: Blackwell.

Haegeman, L. (2006). *Thinking Syntactically: A Guide to Argumentation and Analysis*. Oxford: Blackwell.

Tallerman, M. (1998). *Understanding Syntax*. London: Arnold.

Tortora, C. (2018). *Understanding Sentence Structure: An Introduction to English Syntax*. Oxford: Wiley.