

Veranstalter.....	Daniela Schröder
Thema.....	Syntax [AA-A1, ENG-4/a, ENG-5, AA7, AA9, LAA8, LAA11, AA-W, AA-WB]
Art der Veranstaltung.....	Seminar II (Seminar Ib für Studierende mit Zulassung vor dem WS 2014/15)
Veranstaltungsnummer.....	53-511
Zeit.....	Mo 10-12 Uhr
Raum.....	Phil 1269
Beginn.....	17.10.2016

Course description:

This course will familiarize students with the structure of English sentences such as the following:

One morning, I shot an elephant in my pajamas. How he got in my pajamas I don't know.
(Groucho Marx in Animal Crackers 1930)

This old joke is based on the double meaning of a group of words. The linguistic discipline that deals with such ambiguities is syntax.

Syntax is the branch of linguistics that deals with the structure of phrases, clauses and sentences – and it is much more than drawing trees. This course will provide a practical descriptive overview of some of the main characteristics of English syntax. We will look at the fundamental architecture of the English sentence as well as some of the details of specific domains such as tense-aspect constructions. We will examine how to describe the structures we can observe in English, which inform our understanding of the structure and workings of English

We will also be taking some brief looks at some of the major schools of syntactic theory, to give you some basic ideas about what kinds of aspects of syntax each school of thought tends to deal with, what questions about syntax are asked in each (and why), and, to some extent, what kinds of answers you might expect from each side.

This class is first and foremost intended as a practical, hands-on introduction to syntax and is particularly also appealing to those students who want to foster their grammatical understanding and repeat grammatical terminology.

At the end of term, a final exam will be written; there is no opportunity to write a term paper.

Terms for credit:

Active participation, homework practice/reading assignment (!), one Activity Slot and the final exam.

References will be released in the first session

Sprechstunde während der Vorlesungszeit:	Wednesday 11- 12 pm or by appointment
Sprechstunden während der Semesterferien:	by appointment