LIN1231H1F — Advanced Syntax 1
Fall 2003 — Antisymmetry and Minimalism

The Minimalist Program (Chomsky 1995, 2000, 2001) and the theory of Antisymmetry (Kayne 1994) are perhaps the most influential theories in current generative syntax. This course addresses the question of whether the two approaches are compatible, and to what extent recent research in syntax draws, perhaps in a contradictory fashion, on both theories. Assuming that students have some familiarity with the Minimalist Program, we begin with a brief recap of its main properties, and then turn to a detailed look at Kayne (1994). We will then compare the empirical and theoretical advantages and disadvantages of the two approaches, before turning to a critical examination of several recent papers from the primary literature.

The course will have a seminar format, with students taking turns, along with the instructor, presenting the readings each week. In addition, each student will work on an independent research topic, with a view to identifying and investigating an empirical difference between the two theories under discussion. Students will have the opportunity to present their final papers at a mini-conference, to take place in early February 2004.

Instructor: Elizabeth Cowper **Office:** RL6074
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416-287-7127 (Scarborough) **Class Hours:** Wednesdays, 7:00-9:00, RL6071
Office Hours: Mondays 3:00-4:00 p.m., or by appointment at other times

When I'm not in my office, you can send me an e-mail, or leave a message for me in my mailbox in the Department of Linguistics.

Required text: Kayne, Richard S. 1994. *The Antisymmetry of Syntax*. MIT Press.
In addition, photocopied readings will be handed out in class.

Evaluation:

Item	Date Due	Weight
Prospectus	Oct. 22	10%
Descriptive report	Nov. 19	20%
Abstract	Dec 3	10%
Oral presentations	throughout	20%
Final paper	Dec. 8	40%

The **prospectus** (2 to 5 pages) will briefly describe the empirical issue to be investigated and indicate where the data will be sought. The **descriptive report** (5 to 10 pages) will lay out the data, and will give the beginnings of an analysis in each of the two theories. The **abstract** will conform to the guidelines of the Canadian Linguistic Association, and will serve as a submission to the mini-conference. The **final paper** (20 to 30 pages) will serve as the final report on the investigation conducted during the term, and will form the basis of the presentation at the mini-conference, if applicable. Note that while participation in the mini-conference is strongly encouraged, it is not a requirement of the course. The mark for **oral presentations** will be a global evaluation of the student's presentation of the readings during the course of the term.