Building on the background from Syntax I, this course investigates the sometimes quite subtle (but often highly informative) syntactic commonalities and differences across languages. We scrutinize various analyses, both historically influential and current, focusing on how arguments are constructed and how evidence is gathered and evaluated. We’ll look at the bigger picture of how syntax fits into human language, and dive deeper into a few specific phenomena.

Prerequisite: LX 522 (Syntax I) or consent of instructor

Topics include

- Constraints on syntactic movement
- Question formation, related operations
- Evidence for syntactic “micro-structure”
- Interactions with semantics, morphology, and phonology
- Constructing sound arguments, recognizing and avoiding flawed ones
- Applying these ideas to your own favorite language!