CAS LX 523 Syntax II
FINAL PROJECT GUIDELINES

**PROJECT PROPOSAL** DUE TUESDAY MARCH 27  
**PAPER DRAFT** DUE TUESDAY APRIL 17  
**PRESENTATION** TUESDAY APRIL 24, TUESDAY MAY 1.  
**FINAL PAPER** DUE THURSDAY MAY 3

The final project is essentially a literature review on a topic that we didn’t cover in class, but you wish we had. It need not contain any new analyses of existing phenomena, although you are welcome to do a project of that sort as well (for example, reading some of the literature on a particular construction, and then applying it to other languages to see how well it works out).

**Paper.** The main part of the project is the final paper. In this paper, you should summarize and synthesize different approaches to the topic that you’ve read about. You should also be sure to outline the arguments different authors relied on to reach their conclusions, and include your own critical commentary where appropriate, or additional data that the authors might not have considered. There is no minimum length requirement, but just be sure that you cover everything that seems important in a coherent way without exceeding 15 pages (for the purposes of the maximum length, I have in mind single-spaced pages, standard 12 point font, normal margins not smaller than an inch on each side). As for how much literature is appropriate for review, this is a bit flexible as well. You should try to read at least three different authors on the subject, so that you can get more than one point of view (of course, it’s no problem if one of the papers you read is a response to a different paper that you read). Articles, books, book chapters, all are fair game for this— which means that it would be a bit inequitable to say “read four works” if one person were to read four books and another were to read four conference papers. It would be appropriate to read and review 3–4 papers on a topic, but it can be less if you’ve chosen a book as one of your sources. It can also be more as long as you don’t read so many that you are unable to describe the important points within the space/time requirements of the paper and presentation. The paper is due on the last day of classes, a Thursday, May 3.

**Proposal.** The proposal is basically just a sketch of the topic you would like to work on, and a list of candidate papers/books you are likely to read as a part of the project. You are not committed to using exactly the papers you put on the proposal, but you should do some initial research just to see what papers are out there. You should probably be able to put all of this on a single page, or maybe two. This is just a “safety net” designed to make sure that you haven’t picked what I would consider to be an impossible (or, more unlikely, a trivially easy) topic—and to ensure that you don’t wait until April 16th to start thinking about it.
**Draft.** A draft of the final paper is due the week before the presentations; this will allow me to give you comments about anything that I think is missing from the paper before you hand in the final version. Since the presentation is based on the final project anyway, having some kind of draft finished by this point in the semester is almost inevitable. I just want it to be handed in.

**Presentation.** In the spirit of looking at a topic that “you wished we’d looked at, but didn’t”, the last two classes will consist of people telling the rest of us about these topics, kind of like the presentations we’ve done throughout the semester except (1) shorter/more concise, (2) without the benefit of the audience also having read the papers you’re discussing. Each topic can only take 30 minutes, 20 minutes of which will be the presentation of the material, and the last 10 minutes being discussion/questions about the material. This is to be basically on the model of academic conference presentations, so it may turn out to be useful practice. We need to fit 4 topics per day in the last two classes in order to get everybody in. You should try to make a handout (and if you get it to me at least a little bit before class starts, I can make the photocopies for you), and if you wish, you can use PowerPoint. I will come to class with a laptop capable of displaying PowerPoint, although you can also bring your own if you have one. Note, though, that I may not have an appropriate video adapter for your laptop, so try to ascertain what you need to display video from it ahead of time. And of course, there’s no need to use PowerPoint, a paper handout is perfectly fine.