287 - Syntax
This course is an introduction to the generative approach to analyzing sentence structure. Elements of syntactic analysis are introduced: constituents and tree diagrams, arguments and modifiers, thematic roles and the theta criterion, movement and abstract syntactic representations. This course provides the tools for understanding the source of phenomena such as structural ambiguities and the formation of interrogative sentences.

289 – Semantics
This course provides an introduction to the study of meaning in context. The course introduces Formal semantics (and pragmatics) as an area of linguistics, its nature and history. We will discuss basic semantic-pragmatic concepts like entailment, presupposition and implicature, which form the core semantic data. Furthermore, the students will acquire basic formal skills. We will discuss and practice basic notions from set theory, which plays a major role in the theory of the semantics of natural language, and we will learn to understand and use formal languages like Propositional and Predicate calculus in order to formulate theories of meaning (natural language semantics). Time permitting, the course will provide a brief introduction to some additional advanced topics of semantic-pragmatic research like Modality, Intensionality, Tense and Aspect, Events, Speech acts, or Conditionals.

484 - Crosslinguistic Influence among Bilingual Children-Developmental and Societal Aspects
The course aims to expose the students to the developmental and societal aspects of crosslinguistic influence among bilingual children. The course will focus on linguistic features of the home language and the societal language that are indicative of crosslinguistic interference including, but not limited to, code-switching. Students will learn to analyze language samples from different linguistic aspects (morphology, lexicon, syntax, discourse) identifying the source of variation, distinguishing between societal impact and psycho-cognitive impact.

493 - Noun Phrases
Seminar devoted to various issues in the syntax of noun phrases in a variety of languages. Topics will include the internal structure of the noun phrase, functional projections, features (number, person, gender, case, definiteness) and agreement, types of genitive constructions and their properties, numerals and quantifiers, and various ways in which noun phrase structure interacts with its interpretation.

582 - Strings and Trees: Recovering Syntactic Structure
BA-level elective which focuses on the tension between the fact that syntax is based on abstract hierarchical structures and the fact that sentences are pronounced as 'one dimensional' sequences. This course combines theoretical questions about learnability and representation of syntactic knowledge with topics in computational linguistics and using corpora in syntactic research. (This course was previously called 'Theoretical and computational aspects of syntactic representation').

587 - Advanced Syntax
Introduction to the central components of modern syntactic theory: functional projections and recent versions of X-bar theory, clause structure and the syntactic representation of argument structure, movement operations and cross-linguistic variations in word order, case, agreement, and binding. Abstract notions such as empty categories (PRO, trace) and non-overt structural representations are developed, with the goal of arriving at a systematic theory of syntax that can not only describe the language but also explain why it has the observed properties.

591- Meaning and Use : Foundational Topics

The goal of the course is to introduce students to basic concepts in semantics which are essential both to continued research in semantics and as background to further study in other areas of linguistics.

This course is an informal introduction to essential semantic and pragmatic concepts underlying linguistic analysis including definiteness, intensionality, counting and measuring, reference and quantification. It is intended both for students wanting to continue in semantics and also, crucially, for students wanting to pursue other areas of linguistic research for whom familiarity with these concepts is essential.

877 - Neurolinguistics and Psycholinguistics of Sentence Processing

Humans are constantly engaged in sentence processing, extracting information conveyed by an utterance as it unfolds in time. This process is extremely challenging as it involves great uncertainty, constant prediction and reanalysis. Yet, most of the time we perform it effortlessly and successfully. In this course we will examine the cognitive and neural basis of on-line sentence processing. We will focus on two scientific approaches: (a) Psycholinguistic studies which measure speed and accuracy of behavioral responses during sentence processing; (b) Neurolinguistic approaches which utilize brain imaging techniques, such as ERP, MEG and fMRI to assess the brain processes underlying sentence processing phenomena. We will explain how these methods work, and expose their strengths and weaknesses in the context of sentence processing, a multilayered cognitive processes that evolves over time. Finally, we will discuss the possibility of combining these different methods in the study of specific phenomena in sentence processing such as garden path, gap filling, coreference assignment and semantic focus.

941 - Constructs: a syntax and semantic analysis

This course will examine the range and interpretation of constructs in Hebrew, including the contrast between referential and modificational constructs, compounds vs syntactic phrases, numerically headed vs nominally headed and so on. We will also compare Hebrew constructs with their counterparts in Arabic, and with genitive constructions crosslinguistically. Prerequisites: 598 or permission of instructor.

955 - From Language Theory to Language Cognition

The course is intended for students of linguistics, clinical linguistics, and brain science. The study of natural languages today undergoes a rapid change – theoretical linguists acknowledge the importance of quantitative research, while psycholinguists, psychologists and brain scientists acknowledge the advantage of getting well-informed in linguistic theory. We will read papers from the developed body of literature, and aim at in depth discussions of the phenomena they deal with from the perspective of both theoretical research and empirical-experimental investigation of language.

The topics may include word-class distinctions, antonymy, gradability, modality, inference types, or vagueness and comparison across categories. The research methods discussed may include theoretical, experimental and corpus-based research. The students will design and conduct research projects pertaining to the discussed phenomena. Ideal projects will employ the strong points in the student's background, while profiting from guidance to strengthen the weak points

989 - Typical and Atypical Bilingual Development

The course aims to expose the students to the course of typical and atypical language development by simultaneous and sequential bilingual children, addressing the questions of bilingual processing and linguistic representation. The discussion will be limited to theoretical issues focusing on the acquisition of morphology, syntax and semantics by the two groups, addressing crosslinguistic influence and the effects of background variables.