

Welcome to the MA course in Syntax, taught by Alan McMillion.

Registration and schedule

Registration for the course, which is mandatory to keep your place on the course, will take place in August. Dates and details are available at www.english.su.se.

The first seminar will be on **Thursday 2 November at 10 am**. The course comprises seven seminars in total. You will find the schedule on www.english.su.se (all dates are subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances; please check your online schedule regularly for updates).

Course information

This course is about syntactic generalizations and 'constructions'. We will cover a good deal of syntactic ground in the seven seminars at our disposal. This means that it is absolutely essential that you read the assigned sections actively before each classroom session. By 'actively' I mean that you should not just read the text through, but you should also check in other works (e.g. Goldberg 1995) about the constructions discussed in the text.

Most of our classroom time will be devoted to a discussion of the theoretical points in the assigned sections, but there will also be opportunities to talk about problems arising from various constructions described in the book and in the handouts. To make the most of our time together, you should do the following before coming to class:

- write a list (in order of priority) of the questions you may have in relation to the text;
- write a list (in order of priority) of the constructions and their features you would most like to discuss in class.

This procedure should enable us to structure our seminars in a way that best suits your needs.

Student will be graded on the basis of seminar performance, an oral presentation concerning a construction of English, and an essay (approximately 2000 words) where a construction of English is described.

Textbook: *Constructions at Work*. 2006 Goldberg, Adele E. Oxford University Press