



University of Cyprus  
Department of English Studies

FALL SEMESTER 2018

**ATT556 GRAMMATICAL FEATURES IN SYNTAX AND MORPHOLOGY**

ROOM 0EE01 147

7.5 ECTS

INSTRUCTOR:

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OFFICE HOURS:

WEDNESDAY 9:00-13:00

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OBJECTIVE: In syntactic theory and description the notion of feature plays a central role in driving both structure building and interpretation. Features are usually perceived as something like elementary particles, as the basic stock of language. However, we don't really know how many of them exist; moreover, important details about their nature are usually left undiscussed. In other words, a full theoretical description of what features are still eludes us, although theoretical linguistics in the last 50 years has made significant discoveries about how they work. This course will a) explore issues in the theory of features, b) discuss how features are involved in syntactic operations and c) examine the role of features in morphological representations.

## COURSE OUTLINE

LECTURE 1	Why features? What they are. Some terminology.
LECTURE 2	Feature systems: privative vs. binary. Feature classes and hierarchies. Second order features. Features as attribute-value pairs.
LECTURE 3	Are features instructions to the interfaces? Syntactic features, semantic features, morphological features.
LECTURE 4	Features driving syntax. Feature percolation and/or valuation. Agree.
LECTURE 5	Features in interpretation. LF-interpretable features. How many features and which?
LECTURE 6	Between morphology and syntax. Typology and UG features. Feature structures. Default and unmarked features in comparative morphology.
LECTURE 7	Features in morphological operations.
LECTURE 8	Beyond features.
LECTURE 9	PRESENTATIONS

## TEXTBOOKS

A course package is available on Blackboard.

## READING LIST

- *Core Syntax* / David Adger / Oxford; New York: Oxford University Press, 2003
- *Features, Perspectives on a Key Notion in Linguistics* / edited by Kibort & Greville (eds.) 2010.
- *Phi theory: phi-features across modules and interfaces* / edited by Daniel Harbour, David Adger, and Susan Bejar / Oxford; New York: Oxford University Press
- *Morphosemantic Number* [electronic book] : From Kiowa Noun Classes to UG Number Features / by Daniel Harbour / Dordrecht: Springer, 2007

## ASSESSMENT

Take-home Examination:	40%
Presentation:	40%
Class Participation:	20%