

*Courses open to all interested*

**Please check current information on the [Homepage](#).**

### IGRA 01, CYCLOP

- Topic:** Sequential Interaction of Grammatical Building Blocks: Cyclic Optimization
- Instructor:** Michael Frazier, Gereon Müller & NN
- Time:** Tuesday, 11:15-12:45, HSG, HS 20
- Description:** This seminar is a comprehensive introduction to cyclic optimization in grammar, from the perspective of phonology, morphology, and syntax. First, we will be concerned with different concepts of cyclicity, focussing on Chomsky's original transformational cycle from the 60's and its current successors, and on Kiparsky's subsequent interface-based concept of cyclicity. Here, notions like Cyclic Principle, successive cyclicity, strict cyclicity, and bracket erasure will also play a role. Second, we look at different concepts of optimization (broadly conceived of as the principled choice among competing linguistic expressions in phonology, morphology, and syntax), from Elsewhere-/Subset Principle-based competition resolution in phonology and morphology via transderivational constraints in syntax to selection of optimal candidates in optimality theory. And third, we will become acquainted with cyclic optimization approaches that combine the two concepts, and that, taken together, arguably constitute some of the most important current theories of grammar: stratal optimality theory, phase-based minimalist syntax, and harmonic serialism. The seminar is aimed at both advanced bachelor students (where it simultaneously covers Theorie und Praxis sprachlicher Forschung 1 & 2) and beginning graduate students.
- Starting date:** October 12, 2021

### IGRA 05, CYCLOP

- Topic:** Akademik Skills for Linguists
- Instructor:** Marie-Luise Popp & NN
- Time:** Thursday, 13:15-14:45, NSG, S 211
- Description:** The goal of this course is to equip students with the skills required to conduct and present research in linguistics within the international area. To this end, the course will focus on helping students hone their expertise in (at least) the following areas concerning the preparation, writing, presentation and publication of linguistic research:
1. LaTeX: students will be taught the essential skills needed to conduct all the academic writing in linguistics in the LaTeX programming language.
  2. Literature: students will be taught how to read, manage and integrate existing linguistic literature
  3. Dealing with data: Students will be equipped with important skills about how to handle and argue with linguistic data.
  4. Writing abstracts: students will learn how to package their theses and arguments in the most interesting and compelling manner within the assigned style limitations in order to produce top-quality abstracts.
  5. Publishing papers: students will be taught how to publish research articles in top-tier journals. Thus, students will learn common citation procedures and how to provide linguistics arguments in a logically sound manner.
  6. Presentations: Students will be advised how to give an oral or a poster presentation in a course or at a linguistic conference.
- Starting date:** October 14, 2021

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## IGRA 06

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**Topic:** Topics in Phonology: Phonology  
**Instructor:** Eva Zimmermann  
**Time:** Thursday, 9:15-10:45, NSG, S 111  
**Description:** The minor goal of this course is to become familiar with the most important theoretical tools to approach the phonology of Natural languages: Distinctive Features, autosegmental and prosodic representations, ordered rules, the cycle, and violable constraints. Its major goal is to learn applying all these tools rigorously and creatively to real data from natural languages.  
**References:** - Kenstowicz, M. (1994) *Phonology in Generative Grammar*. Cambridge MA: Blackwell.  
- Kager, R. (1999) *Optimality Theory*. Cambridge University Press.  
**Starting date:** October 14, 2021

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## IGRA 07

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**Topic:** Topics in Morphology: Morphology  
**Instructor:** Yuriy Kushnir & Mariia Privizentseva  
**Time:** Wednesday, 13:15-14:45, **HSG, HS15**  
**Description:** This class is an introduction to morphology at an advanced level. We will present empirical questions that morphological theory intends to solve and theoretical concepts employed for this. We will also read recent published work and discuss current research problems. The ultimate goal of the course is to learn how to recognize and analyze theoretically relevant morphological phenomena.  
**Starting date:** October 13, 2021

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## IGRA 08

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**Topic:** Topics in Syntax: Constraints on Movement  
**Instructor:** Gereon Müller  
**Time:** Tuesday, 17:15-18:45, NSG, S 127  
**Description:** In this seminar we will be concerned with constraints on syntactic movement, from Chomsky's legendary A-over-A Principle from 1964 to recent concepts of phase impenetrability and anti-locality. We will look at empirical evidence from a variety of typologically different languages; and we will also consider approaches based on a variety of different theories of grammar (Minimalist Program, GPSG, HPSG, Optimality Theory, Gradient Harmonic Grammar).  
**References:** Will be announced at the beginning of the semester.  
For preparation, participants may want to look at this overview paper:  
- Müller, Gereon. 2021. Constraints on Grammatical Dependencies. In Nicholas Allot, Terje Lohndal & Georges Rey (eds.), *A Companion to Chomsky*, 190-209. Hoboken, NJ: Wiley Blackwell. (<https://home.uni-leipzig.de/muellerg/mu992.pdf>)  
**Starting date:** October 12, 2021

**Topic:** Topics in Syntax: Syntax  
**Instructor:** Fabian Heck  
**Time:** Thursday, 11:15-12:45, NSG, S 111  
**Description:** The purpose of this course is twofold. First, it is supposed to make students who just entered the MA-program in linguistics in Leipzig (and who did not take the introductory syntax course in module 04-006-1003) familiar with the most fundamental properties of the derivational syntactic theory usually referred to as the "Minimalist Program" (MP; mostly based on Chomsky 1995, 2000, 2001). Second, it aims at addressing further topics within this theory that are not covered by the introductory course. Such topics may (but need not) include binding (Principle A, B, C), cyclicity (the cycle, strict cyclicity, tucking-in), locality (MLC, PIC, Freezing, Leap Frogging), Agree (upward,

downward, cyclic, gluttonic, multiple), copies (reconstruction, linearization), case (alignment systems, dependent case), labeling. The concrete syllabus can be adopted to the students' needs.

**Starting date:** October 14, 2021

**Topic:** Topics in Syntax: Syntax and Scope

**Instructor:** Gregory M. Kobele

**Time:** Friday, 11:15-12:45, NSG, S 111

**Description:** The structure of a sentence bears some relation to its meaning, but which exactly? In this course we focus on surveying the empirical landscape of scope taking. Different theoretical proposals will be evaluated with respect to their predictions, and we will attempt a synthesis.

**Starting date:** October 15, 2021

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## IGRA Colloquium

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**Instructors:** Gereon Müller & IGRA-faculty

**Time:** Wednesday, 15:15-16:45, NSG, S 211

**Description:** A series of guest lectures by scholars working on aspects of the interaction of grammatical building blocks. These talks are primarily for the graduate students of IGRA, but they are open to all.

**Starting date:** October 2021

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## Further courses of interest

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**Topic:** Phonology reading group

**Instructor:** Eva Zimmermann

**Time:** Monday, 10:00-11:30, Beethovenstr. 15, H1 5.16

**Description:** We meet every week to discuss recent and/or important work in phonology. Most of the time we agree on a paper that we all read and then discuss, but we also include talks/discussions about our own work in progress.

[Website](#)

**Starting date:** October 11, 2021

**Topic:** Colloquium Linguistic Typology

**Instructor:** Barbara Stiebels

**Time:** Tuesday, 15:15-16:45, NSG, S 111

**Description:** The colloquium provides a forum to present and discuss ongoing research in linguistic typology. Presentations and suggestions for readings are welcome. The program will be fixed in the first meeting.

**Starting date:** October 12, 2021

**Topic:** Readings in linguistics

**Instructor:** Gregory M. Kobele

**Time:** Wednesday, 9:15-10:45, NSG, S 111

**Description:** We will read and discuss topics in and around linguistics. Topics TBD in the first week of class.

**Starting date:** October 13, 2021

**Topic:** Recent Work in Morphology and Syntax

**Instructor:** Gereon Müller

**Time:** Friday, 14:00-15:30, NSG, S 302

**Description:** In this colloquium, we discuss recent work in morphology and syntax that either goes back to the participants' own research or has recently been published.

**Starting date:** October 15, 2021

## **Important mailing lists**

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*Department of Linguistics ULeipzig:*

Mailing list "Lingtalk" for information about all linguistic events. Go to this [link](#).

PhD students will be added automatically.