Course Description
This course is an exploration of various argument structural phenomena and some of the most influential theories of the past decades aiming to account for these phenomena. After a brief introduction to some significant theories of the 1980s and 1990s, we will focus on questions that have received much attention in the literature in more recent years. Through various reading assignments and in-class discussions, students are hoped to improve their critical thinking and data analysis skills.

Throughout the course we will be interested in the grammatical behavior of verbs and we will devote attention to the following questions:

- Which facets of verb meaning are grammatically relevant?
- How shall we represent verb meaning so that we can capture the various argument realization patterns that a given verb is associated with?
- How do verb alternations come about? What do these alternations look like across languages?
- How are languages different when it comes to the lexicalization of events?
- How are lexicalization patterns constrained? What are possible and impossible verb meanings?

The course concludes in a student presentation and a paper demonstrating that students can read and interpret the literature, and they can also build on it when analyzing linguistic data.

Reading assignments
Grading
The final grade will be based on a presentation and a min. 2500-word research paper.

Student presentations
Students will work on a specific problem throughout the semester and present their findings in class. Each presentation will be accompanied by a handout or a PowerPoint/Prezi slideshow. Students must prepare a two-page draft of their presentation and schedule a meeting with the instructor at least a week before the presentation is due for feedback on this draft.

The research paper
This paper is an extended version of the presentation. It presents a specific puzzle by providing background literature on the topic, numerous illustrative examples and, as a minimal requirement, some reflection on ways to solve the puzzle.

The research paper needs to be typewritten (12 pt Times New Roman, double-spaced) and submitted via e-mail on or before June 12, 2017.

For those graduating in Spring 2017, the deadline for this assignment is May 24, 2017.

Some topics for the presentation and research paper
Below are some possible topics and background literature that students can explore in their presentation and research paper. These are by no means obligatory; other topics are also welcome.

- **Transitivity and particle verbs in Hungarian**


- **Argument structure properties of resultatives in English and/or Hungarian (or any other language that has resultatives)**

The causative alternation: morphological properties and derivational characteristics


Hungarian verbs in Talmy’s (1985) typology: aspeccutal and argument structural consequences

- **The encoding of manner and result states in English and/or Hungarian (or any other language)**


**Weekly Syllabus**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week #</th>
<th>Topics to be discussed in class</th>
<th>Reading assignments</th>
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<tr>
<td>Week 1</td>
<td>Challenges for theories of argument realization</td>
<td>Levin &amp; Rappaport Hovav (2005): Chapter 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 2</td>
<td>Semantic role lists and generalized semantic roles</td>
<td>Levin &amp; Rappaport Hovav (2005): Chapter 2 and Section 3.1</td>
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<td>Week 3</td>
<td>Decomposition approaches</td>
<td>Wechsler (2015): Section 4.4</td>
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<td>Week 4</td>
<td>Aspectual theories of argument realization</td>
<td>Levin and Rappaport Hovav (2005): Section 4.2</td>
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<td>Week 5</td>
<td>An event-structure account of English resultatives</td>
<td>Rappaport Hovav &amp; Levin (2001)</td>
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<td>Week 6</td>
<td>Verbs in resultative constructions <em>This class will be taught by our Erasmus-guest lecturer, Imola Farkas (Babeș-Bolyai University, Cluj).</em></td>
<td>Ramchand (2008): pp. 38-45, 63-91, 100-109, 110-138 Vendler (1967)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 7</td>
<td>A syntactic approach to argument structure</td>
<td>Folli &amp; Harley (2012)</td>
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<td>Week 8</td>
<td>Consultation week – No class</td>
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<td>Week 9</td>
<td>Argument alternations: Causative, inchoative, and result state alternations</td>
<td>Student presentations #1</td>
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<td>Week 10</td>
<td>Anticausatives are weak scalar expressions, not reflexive expressions</td>
<td>Student presentations #2</td>
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<td>Week 11</td>
<td>Lexicalization of events 1: Typology of motion and manner lexicalization</td>
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<td>Week 13</td>
<td>Lexicalization of events 2: Manner-result complementarity 2</td>
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<td>Week 14</td>
<td>Review</td>
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**Place and Time**
Room 111
4:00-5:40 p.m. on Thursdays

**Contact**
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Office hours: Thursday 2:00-3:00 p.m.
          Friday 10:00-11:00 a.m.