

# COSC451 2009 Assignment 3: Minimalist syntax (10%)

## Task

For this assignment, you should write an essay with the following title:

Describe the Minimalist account of the syntactic structure of the sentence *The man grabbed a cup*. Summarise the arguments which are adduced for this structure, and critically evaluate these arguments.

The essay should be around 3000 words (about 8 pages in a 12-point font). You should draw on Lectures 11 and 12, and on Chapter 4 of the course textbook.

You may also find it useful to consult someone else's introduction to X-bar syntax. One good introduction on the web is Chapter 4 of Santorini and Kroch's online syntax course, which you can find here:

<http://www.ling.upenn.edu/~beatrice/syntax-textbook/>.

(There's a link from the 451 'assignments' webpage.)

## Submission and marking

You should submit the assignment by email to me ([alikh@cs.otago.ac.nz](mailto:alikh@cs.otago.ac.nz)) by 5pm on **Friday of Week 3** (i.e. on **Friday July 30th**). 10% of available marks will be deducted for each day late. I'll give marks for an essay which is well structured, and clearly presents the relevant syntactic arguments, using examples of well-formed and ill-formed sentences where appropriate. You are welcome to criticise the arguments when you're evaluating them: you won't lose any marks for that!