The Agree relation is one of the central components of a minimalist framework, and accordingly, it has been the focus of a large amount of morphosyntactic research in the past twenty years. In this seminar, we will review and evaluate major recent trends in approaches to the Agree relation (and to agreement in general), with a particular focus on morphosyntactic issues and questions. There have been many proposals to revise the Agree relation, and the seminar will cover the major contenders including Upwards Agree, Multiple Agree and Agree as an obligatory operation. We will also learn about empirical domains that have proved to be rich sources of information about the morphosyntax of agreement, possibly including closest conjunct agreement as well as person and number restrictions on agreement goals. As time permits, we will conclude by turning to recent work on the morphology of agreement, including research on discontinuous exponence and on agreement within the nominal phrase.

Prerequisite: advanced coursework in syntax

GOALS

- Gain a solid understanding of the central proposals and key issues concerning agreement within contemporary (minimalist) syntactic theory
- Become familiar with the central questions asked and progress made in several different empirical areas of research on agreement
- Gain skills in reading, summarizing, and discussing linguistic research and in conducting linguistic research on agreement

TENTATIVE LIST OF READINGS (ALL POSTED ON COURSE WEBSITE)

Meeting 1 (5/12): Overviews

Meeting 2 (5/19): The Directionality of Agree

Meeting 3 (5/26): Upwards vs. Downwards con.
Preminger, Omer and Maria Polinsky. 2015. Agreement and semantic concord: a spurious unification. Ms., University of Maryland, College Park, and Harvard University.

Meeting 4 (6/2): Agreeing with Multiple Arguments

Meeting 5 (6/9): Concord and student presentations
Norris, Mark. 2014. A theory of nominal concord. Doctoral dissertation, University of California, Santa Cruz. [Chapter 3]
[Student presentations: John, Emily and Julian]

**Requirements**
- Do the readings and participate (~3-4 readings per session)
- Engagement with the reading: questions on the readings emailed to me before class
- Presentation of a paper from among the readings
- Modest paper due 6/11 ideally analyzing an agreement-related problem in a particular language or languages (other types of papers also considered)
  - 10 pages single spaced
  - Class presentation of the same on the last day

**Grade Breakdown:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Final paper</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presentation of final paper</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading engagement</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class presentation of paper from reading</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>15</td>
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