Paper guidelines

A. Content

(1) Unless we’ve agreed otherwise, the papers are to be empirically based: cite and analyze your own data. Your paper topic must be cleared with me in advance.

(2) “Your own data”. This can come from a grammar, fieldwork, a language you speak, etc. It can come from some article written in some framework before OT (though I don’t recommend this).

(3) All generalizations and input forms must be justified by you with examples in the paper. Do not say that a rule or generalization exists because the author of some paper or grammar says so (though you do need to acknowledge anyone who’s claiming the same generalizations exist).

(4) You need to propose an explicit analysis of your data.

(5) All constraints invoked in the analysis must be merited by the data and explicitly justified. Make sure either to draw them from the literature or be very explicit why some new constraint is necessary.

(6) All rankings must be justified.

(7) There needs to be a theoretical point; you need to make clear how your analysis of your data challenges (correspondence-based) OT. Ideally, you should propose some explicit change in the theory to accommodate your analysis.

(8) The most important thing about the papers is that they be clear. Do not write them thinking of me as the audience; write them for your classmates.

B. Form

(9) They can be no more than six double-spaced pages. (This includes everything, text, references, examples.)

(10) Type them.

(11) Turn them in on time.

(12) Don’t be afraid to come talk to me about what you’re doing.