Ling 503: Some possible paper topics:

Remember: your paper can take the form of original research into a given phenomenon in a given language, or it can take the form of a literature review of original papers on the topic you have chosen.

Your paper doesn't have to be on one of the topics given below; it can be on something else that interests you. You should have a topic chosen by the end of October/first week in November, and you should clear it with me.

Some topics (any of these can be interpreted as "within a given language"); some of these won't make any sense to you as of yet but if they sound remotely interesting, please feel free to ask me about 'em. If you're working on a relatively unstudied language, you could simply pick one of these topics and see if the phenomenon was applicable in that language.

- the formalism of phrase structure
	- Kayne's Linear Correspondence Axiom and later developments
		- Moro's Linearization at Spell-Out
		- are there right-headed syntactic structures in lg?
	- Chomsky's Bare Phrase Structure
	- Epstein's derivational approach to c-command
	- Phillips' constituency tests and sentence processing
	- Uriagereka's/Johnson's 'late-attachment' approach to adjoining modifiers
	- checking theory: features as loci for parameters, feature 'strength', Agree, etc.

- morphosyntax:
	- the Mirror Principle and Head-to-Head movement as syntactic word-building
	- complex predicates (verbs+affixes)
	- clitics (pronominal or otherwise)
	- compounding
	- agreement/tense morphology

- A-movement
	- Abstract vs. morphological case in some language
	- passive
	- raising
	- other argument-structure changing operations (causative, benefactive, applicative…)
	- dative shift
	- particle shift
	- nominative objects
	- ergative-absolutive case systems
	- ergative splits
	- exceptional case marking vs. raising-to-object
	- argument structure vs. event structure

- A-bar movement
    - bounding theory: wh-islands
        - Specified Subject Condition
        - Complex NP constraint
        - Subjacency
        - Strong/Weak Crossover
    - wh-in situ and 'covert' movement
    - multiple wh-questions
    - topicalization
    - parasitic gaps
    - quantifier raising
    - Antecedent-Contained Deletion

- Binding theory
    - argument-structure based binding theories
        - Reinhart's "Reflexivity"
        - HPSG/LFG binding theories
    - logophoricity
    - reflexive clitics/affixes
        - Lidz's Condition "R"
    - variable binding (by quantifiers) (i.e. a-bar binding)
    - condition C effects

- Misc:
    -pro-drop: morphologically licensed vs. discourse-licensed
    - Scrambling and other word-order phenomena: focus-movement, topicalization
        - interaction between focus-movement and wh-movement
        - specificity/definiteness and word-order variation
        - case-marking and definiteness (partitive vs. accusative)
        - A vs. A-bar scrambling
    - control: PRO vs. pro, infinitives, argument-structure approaches
    - previous analyses/frameworks: Syntactic Structures, Transformational
            Grammar, Generative Semantics
    - adverb placement
    - the Pronominal Argument Hypothesis and polysynthesis
        - adjunct "arguments"