ARTS3690

Language Universals and Linguistic Typology

Term Two // 2021

School of Humanities and Languages // UNSW Arts, Design & Architecture

Course Overview

Staff Contact Details

Convenors

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
Mengistu Amberber	m.amberber@unsw.edu.au	TBA	MB 241	

School Contact Information

School of Humanities and Languages

Location: School Office, Morven Brown Building, Level 2, 258

Opening Hours: Monday - Friday, 9am - 5pm

Phone: +61 2 9385 1681

Fax: +61 2 9385 8705

Email: hal@unsw.edu.au

Course Details

Credit Points 6

Summary of the Course

This course will enable you to develop skills in extracting and synthesising information regarding linguistic diversity. It is estimated that there are over 6,000 languages spoken in the world today. Most of these languages are endangered and are in urgent need of documentation and description. It is an essential goal of linguistics, the scientific study of language, to understand to what extent these languages are different from each other. The skills and knowledge acquired in undertaking a course in linguistic typology are critical to the training of linguistic professionals who can engage in the documentation and description of languages.

Course Learning Outcomes

1. Identify conceptual and empirical issues in typological linguistics focusing on morphology and syntax.
2. Extract and synthesise information regarding linguistic diversity.
3. Evaluate and appraise different hypotheses about universal patterns in linguistic structure.
4. Analyse typological data and argue the merits of the analysis.

Teaching Strategies

The teaching strategies involve lectures, group discussions, and class presentations. While there will be some short introductions to the theories in lecture format, most time will be spent on interactive group discussions considering key concepts and issues. The course has a seminar-style interactive format where you will be required to lead discussion through class presentations. A key component of the course involves what is called ‘Adopt a Language’ where you will be assigned one language and extract and synthesise grammatical information on the basis of available reference grammars and other scholarly articles on the language. You will be required to make a detailed presentation on the grammatical properties of your adopted language.

Assessment

Assessment Tasks

Assessment task	Weight	Due Date	Student Learning

Length: variable

Details:

You will post in the LMS your summary of and reflections on the assigned readings. You are expected to do 10 posts of approximately 100 words each. Feedback will be provided via in-class discussion.

Additional details:

See Moodle for details and regular updates.

Turnitin setting: This is not a Turnitin assignment

Assessment 4: Presentation

Length: 5 minutes

Details:

Students do a 5 minute presentation. You will receive individual feedback via a rubric.

Additional details:

See Moodle for details and regular updates.

Turnitin setting: This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students do not see Turnitin similarity reports.

Attendance Requirements

Attendance of tutorials is mandatory in this course. Attendance is taken at the tutorials. Unexcused absence from more than 20% of tutorials will result in the award of fail grade. In tutorials, you will actively engage with core course content, enabling you to attain CLO 1 and CLO 3.

Course Schedule

View class timetable

Timetable

Date	Type	Content
Week 1: 31 May - 4 June	Lecture	Introducing the course; administrative matters; historical background to typology
	Tutorial	Discussion on Wee 1 lecture content and exercises. Please note that further details and information including the reading list for each week and instruction for tutorial tasks, class/online activities and expectation will be available on Moodle. Lecture/tutorial topics and assessment schedule are subject to change. You must consult Moodle for regular updates.
Week 2: 7 June - 11 June	Lecture	(I) Methodological Issues; the problem of sampling; explaining language universals (II) Part of speech systems; Typological distinctions in word-formation

		noun phrase
	Tutorial	Discussion on Week 5 lecture content.
Week 6: 5 July - 9 July	Module	Flexibility Week. No classes.
Week 7: 12 July - 16 July	Lecture	Voice systems; The passive voice in the world's languages
	Tutorial	Discussion on Week 7 lecture content.
	Assessment	In-class Test.
Week 8: 19 July - 23 July	Lecture	Clause types; Coordination/Complementation
	Tutorial	Discussion on Week 8 lecture content.
Week 9: 26 July - 30 July	Lecture	Relative Clauses; Adverbial Clauses
	Tutorial	Discussion on Week 9 lecture content.
Week 10: 2 August - 6 August	Lecture	Speech act distinction in grammar; Semantic typology
	Tutorial	Discussion on Week 10 lecture content.

Resources

Prescribed Resources

See Leganto on the course Moodle page for links to resources.

- Shopen, T. (ed.) 2007/2010. *J_ l es_ec Rwnmjmew _ l b Qw l r_arga Bcqapgnrgm l* . Cambridge University Press. Volumes I, II, and III [eBook available at the UNSW Library].
- The Oxford Handbook of Linguistic Typology (OHLT), 2010/2012 [eBook available at the UNSW Library].

Recommended Resources

Submission of Assessment Tasks

Turnitin Submission

If you encounter a problem when attempting to submit your assignment through Turnitin, please telephone External Support on 9385 3331 or email them on externalteltsupport@unsw.edu.au . Support hours are 8:00am – 10:00pm on weekdays and 9:00am – 5:00pm on weekends (365 days a year). If you are unable to submit your assignment due to a fault with Turnitin you may apply for an extension, but you must retain your ticket number from External Support (along with any other relevant documents) to include as evidence to support your extension application. If you email External Support you will automatically receive a ticket number, but if you telephone you will need to specifically ask for one. Turnitin also provides updates on their system status on Twitter.

Generally, assessment tasks must be submitted electronically via either Turnitin or a Moodle assignment. In instances where this is not possible, it will be stated on your course's Moodle site with alternative submission details.

For information on how to submit assignments online via Moodle: https://student.unsw.edu.au/how-submit-assignment-moodle

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

Plagiarism is using the words or ideas of others and presenting them as your own. It can take many forms, from deliberate cheating to accidentally copying from a source without acknowledgement.

UNSW groups plagiarism into the following categories:

- understand your rights and responsibilities as a student at UNSW
-

Academic Information

For essential student information relating to:

- requests for extension;
- late submissions guidelines;
- review of marks;
- UNSW Health and Safety policies;
- examination procedures;
- special consideration in the event of illness or misadventure;
- student equity and disability;
- and other essential academic information, see