UNSW Course Outline

ARTS3690 Language Universals and Linguistic Typology - 2024

Published on the 20 May 2024

General Course Information

Course Code : ARTS3690
Year : 2024
Term : Term 2
Teaching Period : T2
Is a multi-term course? : No
Faculty : Faculty of Arts, Design and Architecture
Academic Unit : School of Humanities and Languages
Delivery Mode : In Person
Delivery Format : Standard
Delivery Location : Kensington
Campus : Sydney
Study Level : Undergraduate
Units of Credit : 6

Useful Links

Handbook Class Timetable

Course Details & Outcomes

Course Description

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.

Relationship to Other Courses

This is an upper level course in the Linguistics undergraduate program.

Course Learning Outcomes

Course Learning Outcomes
CLO1 : Identify conceptual and empirical issues in typological linguistics focusing on morphology and syntax.
CLO2 : Extract and synthesise information regarding linguistic diversity.
CLO3 : Evaluate and appraise different hypotheses about universal patterns in linguistic structure.
CLO4 : Analyse typological data and argue the merits of the analysis.

Course Learning Outcomes	Assessment Item
CLO1 : Identify conceptual and empirical issues in typological linguistics focusing on morphology and syntax.	• In-class Test • Final essay • Weekly blog
CLO2 : Extract and synthesise information regarding linguistic diversity.	• Presentation • Final essay
CLO3 : Evaluate and appraise different hypotheses about universal patterns in linguistic structure.	• Weekly blog • Final essay
CLO4 : Analyse typological data and argue the merits of the analysis.	• In-class Test • Final essay

Learning and Teaching Technologies

Moodle - Learning Management System

Additional Course Information

Additional information to be provided in Moodle.

Assessments

Assessment Structure

Assessment Item	Weight	Relevant Dates
In-class Test	30%	Start Date: 27/06/2024 12:00 PM Due Date: 27/06/2024 01:00 PM
Presentation	15%	Start Date: Not Applicable Due Date: Not Applicable
Final essay Short Extension: Yes (1 day)	40%	Start Date: Not Applicable Due Date: 01/08/2024 04:00 PM Post Date: 15/08/2024 04:00 PM
Weekly blog Short Extension: Yes (1 day)	15%	Start Date: Not Applicable Due Date: Not Applicable

Assessment Details
In-class Test

Assessment Overview

A 40 minute in-class test focusing on major topics covered in the course, required readings, and class discussions. You will receive individual written feedback.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Identify conceptual and empirical issues in typological linguistics focusing on morphology and syntax.
- CLO4 : Analyse typological data and argue the merits of the analysis.

Detailed Assessment Description

A 40 minute in-class test focusing on major topics covered in the course, required readings, and class

discussions. You will receive individual written feedback.

The test is given in person in class.

Assessment Length

40 minutes

Assessment information

Further details to be provided in Moodle.

Assignment submission Turnitin type

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

Presentation

Assessment Overview

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

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO2 : Extract and synthesise information regarding linguistic diversity.

Detailed Assessment Description

Further details to be provided in Moodle.

Assessment Length

5 minutes

Assessment information

Further information to be provided in Moodle.

Assignment submission Turnitin type

This is not a Turnitin assignment

Final essay

Assessment Overview

2000 word essay on any of the major topics covered in the course. This is the final assessment for attendance purposes. You will receive individual feedback via a rubric.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Identify conceptual and empirical issues in typological linguistics focusing on morphology and syntax.
- CLO2 : Extract and synthesise information regarding linguistic diversity.
- CLO3 : Evaluate and appraise different hypotheses about universal patterns in linguistic structure.
- CLO4 : Analyse typological data and argue the merits of the analysis.

Detailed Assessment Description

Further details to be provided in Moodle.

Assessment Length

2000 words

Assessment information

Further information to be provided in Moodle.

Assignment submission Turnitin type

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

Weekly blog

Assessment Overview

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.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Identify conceptual and empirical issues in typological linguistics focusing on morphology and syntax.
- CLO3 : Evaluate and appraise different hypotheses about universal patterns in linguistic structure.

Detailed Assessment Description

Further details to be provided in Moodle.

Assessment Length

Blog post of approximately 100 words (x 10)

Assessment information

This assignment is submitted through the OU Blog platform. Further information to be provided in Moodle.

Assignment submission Turnitin type

This is not a Turnitin assignment

General Assessment Information

Further details to be provided in Moodle.

Grading Basis

Standard

Requirements to pass course

Achieve a composite mark of 50 out of 100.

Course Schedule

Teaching Week/Module	Activity Type	Content
Week 1 : 27 May - 2 June	Lecture	Introducing the course; administrative matters; historical background to typology
	Tutorial	Discussion on Week 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 : 3 June - 9 June	Lecture	(I) Methodological Issues; the problem of sampling; explaining language universals (II) Part of speech systems; typological distinctions in word-formation
	Tutorial	Discussion on Week 2 lecture content.
Week 3 : 10 June - 16 June	Lecture	(I) Lexical typologies; inflectional morphology (II) Gender and noun classes; Aspect, Tense, Mood
	Tutorial	Discussion on Week 3 lecture content.
Week 4 : 17 June - 23 June	Lecture	Word order configuration in the languages of the world.
	Tutorial	Discussion on Week 4 lecture content.
Week 5 : 24 June - 30 June	Lecture	Voice systems.
	Tutorial	Discussion on Week 5 lecture content.
Week 6 : 1 July - 7 July	Module	Flexibility Week. No classes.
Week 7 : 8 July - 14 July	Lecture	Clause types; Coordination/Complementation
	Tutorial	Discussion on Week 7 lecture content.
Week 8 : 15 July - 21 July	Lecture	Relative Clauses; Adverbial Clauses
	Tutorial	Discussion on Week 8 lecture content.
Week 9 : 22 July - 28 July	Lecture	Speech act distinction in grammar; Semantic typology
	Tutorial	Discussion on Week 9 lecture content.
Week 10 : 29 July - 4 August	Lecture	Revision of key concepts.
	Tutorial	Discussion on Week 10 lecture content.

Attendance Requirements

Students are strongly encouraged to attend all classes and review lecture recordings.

Course Resources

Prescribed Resources

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

(1) Shopen, T. (ed.) 2007/2010. *Language Typology and Syntactic Description. Cambridge University Press. Volumes I, II, and III*

[eBook available at the UNSW Library].

(2) *The Oxford Handbook of Linguistic Typology* (OHLT), 2010/2012

[eBook available at the UNSW Library].

Recommended Resources

Comrie, B. 1989. *Language Universals and Linguistic Typology*, second edition. The University of Chicago Press.

Comrie, B. 1987. *The World's Major Languages*. Oxford University Press.

Croft, W. 1990. *Typology and universals*. Cambridge University Press.

Hawkins, J. 1988. *Explaining Language Universals*. Oxford: Blackwell.

Lyovin, A.V. 1997. *An Introduction to the languages of the world*. New York/Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Newmeyer, F. 1998. *Language Form and Language Function*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.

Payne, Thomas. 1997. *Describing Morphosyntax*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Velupillai, Viveka. 2012. *An Introduction to Linguistic Typology*. Amsterdam: J. Benjamins.

Whaley, L. 1997. *Introduction to Typology. The Unity and Diversity of Language*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.

Course Evaluation and Development

Courses are periodically reviewed and students' feedback is used to improve them.

Feedback is gathered from students using myExperience. Students are encouraged to complete their

surveys by accessing the personalised web link via the Moodle course site.

Staff Details

Position	Name	Email	Location	Phone	Availability	Equitable Learning Services Contact	Primary Contact
Convenor	Mengistu Amberber					No	Yes

Other Useful Information

Academic Information

Due to evolving advice by NSW Health, students must check for updated information regarding online learning for all Arts, Design and Architecture courses this term (via Moodle or course information provided).

Please see: https://www.unsw.edu.au/arts-design-architecture/student-life/resources-support/protocols-guidelines for essential student information relating to:

- UNSW and Faculty policies and procedures;
- Student Support Services;
- Dean's List;
- review of results;
- credit transfer;
- cross-institutional study and exchange;
- examination information;
- enrolment information;
- Special Consideration in the event of illness or misadventure;
- student equity and disability;

And other essential academic information.

Academic Honesty and Plagarism

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:

- Copying: Using the same or very similar words to the original text or idea without acknowledging the source or using quotation marks. This includes copying materials, ideas or concepts from a book, article, report or other written document, presentation, composition, artwork, design, drawing, circuitry, computer program or software, website, internet, other electronic resource, or another person's assignment without appropriate acknowledgement.
- Inappropriate paraphrasing: Changing a few words and phrases while mostly retaining the original information, structure and/or progression of ideas of the original without acknowledgement. This also applies in presentations where someone paraphrases another's ideas or words without credit and to piecing together quotes and paraphrases into a new

whole, without appropriate referencing.

- Collusion: Working with others but passing off the work as a person's individual work. Collusion also includes providing your work to another student for the purpose of them plagiarising, paying another person to perform an academic task, stealing or acquiring another person's academic work and copying it, offering to complete another person's work or seeking payment for completing academic work.
- Inappropriate citation: Citing sources which have not been read, without acknowledging the "secondary" source from which knowledge of them has been obtained.
- Duplication ("self-plagiarism"): Submitting your own work, in whole or in part, where it has previously been prepared or submitted for another assessment or course at UNSW or another university.

The UNSW Academic Skills support offers resources and individual consultations. Students are also reminded that careful time management is an important part of study. One of the identified causes of plagiarism is poor time management. Students should allow sufficient time for research, drafting and proper referencing of sources in preparing all assessment items. UNSW Library has the ELISE tool available to assist you with your study at UNSW. ELISE is designed to introduce new students to studying at UNSW, but it can also be a great refresher during your study.

Completing the ELISE tutorial and quiz will enable you to:

- analyse topics, plan responses and organise research for academic writing and other assessment tasks
- effectively and efficiently find appropriate information sources and evaluate relevance to your needs
- use and manage information effectively to accomplish a specific purpose
- better manage your time
- understand your rights and responsibilities as a student at UNSW
- be aware of plagiarism, copyright, UNSW Student Code of Conduct and Acceptable Use of UNSW ICT Resources Policy
- be aware of the standards of behaviour expected of everyone in the UNSW community
- locate services and information about UNSW and UNSW Library

Use of AI for assessments

As AI applications continue to develop, and technology rapidly progresses around us, we remain committed to our values around academic integrity at UNSW. Where the use of AI tools, such as ChatGPT, has been permitted by your course convener, they must be properly credited and your submissions must be substantially your own work.

In cases where the use of AI has been prohibited, please respect this and be aware that where

unauthorised use is detected, penalties will apply.

[Use of AI for assessments | UNSW Current Students](#)

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, alternative submission details will be stated on your course's Moodle site. For information on how to submit assignments online via Moodle: https://student.unsw.edu.au/how-submit-assignment-moodle

Late Submission Penalty

UNSW has a standard late submission penalty of:

- 5% per calendar day,
- for all assessments where a penalty applies,
- capped at five calendar days (120 hours) from the assessment deadline, after which a student cannot submit an assessment, and
- no permitted variation.

Students are expected to manage their time to meet deadlines and to request [Special Consideration](#) as early as possible before the deadline. Support with [Time Management is available here](#).

School Contact Information

School of Humanities & Languages

Email: hal@unsw.edu.au

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

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