



**UNSW**  
SYDNEY

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University



# ARTS3690

Language Universals and Linguistic Typology

Term Two // 2019

## Course Overview

### Staff Contact Details

#### Convenors

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
Mengistu Amberber	<a href="mailto:m.amberber@unsw.edu.au">m.amberber@unsw.edu.au</a>	TBA	MB 241	9385 2299

### School Contact Information

School of Humanities and Languages

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

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

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## Course Details

**Credit Points 6**

### Summary of the Course

Subject Area: *Linguistics*

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 Outcomes Assessed
In-class Test	30%	08/07/2019 11:00 AM	1,4
Weekly blog	15%	Not Applicable	1,3
Presentation	15%	Not Applicable	2
Final essay	40%	09/08/2019 04:00 PM	1,2,3,4

## Assessment Details

### Assessment 1: In-class Test

**Start date:**

**Length:** 40 minutes

**Details:** 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.

**Turnitin setting:** This is not a Turnitin assignment

### Assessment 2: Weekly blog

**Start date:**

**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.

**Turnitin setting:** This is not a Turnitin assignment

### Assessment 3: Presentation

**Start date:**

**Length:** 5 minutes

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

**Additional details:**

Students will be rostered for the class presentation. See Moodle for details.

**Turnitin setting:** This is not a Turnitin assignment

**Assessment 4: Final essay**

**Start date:**

**Length:** approx. 2000 words

**Details:** 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.

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

## Attendance Requirements

Attendance of **Lectures and Tutorials** is mandatory in this course. Unexcused absence from more than 20% of **Lectures/Tutorials** will result in the award a fail grade. In **Lecture/Tutorials** you will actively engage with core course content, enabling you to attain **CLO 1, 2, 3, 4**.

## Course Schedule

[View class timetable](#)

### Timetable

Date	Type	Content
Week 1: 3 June - 7 June	Lecture	Introducing the course; administrative matters; historical background to typology
	Tutorial	Discussion on lecture content and exercises.  Please note that detailed information and instruction for each week's lecture topic and tutorial tasks, class/online activities and expectation will be available on Moodle. Lecture/tutorial topics and schedule are subject to change. You must consult Moodle for regular updates.
	Reading	Chapters 1-3 (from the <i>Oxford Handbook of Linguistic Typology</i> = OHLT)
Week 2: 10 June - 14 June		<b>No class public holiday</b>
Week 3: 17 June - 21 June	Lecture	(I) Methodological Issues; the problem of sampling; explaining language universals  Parts-of-speech systems;  (II) Typological distinctions in word-formation
	Tutorial	Discussion on lecture content and exercises.
	Reading	(I) OHLT Chapters 4-6  (II) Shopen, Vol.I, Ch. 1; Shopen, Vol. III, Ch. 1; OHLT Ch. 14
Week 4: 24 June - 28 June	Lecture	(I) Lexical typologies; inflectional morphology  (II) Gender and noun classes; aspect, tense, mood

	Tutorial	Discussion on lecture content and exercises.
	Reading	(I) Shopen, Vol. III, Chapters 2 & 3; OHLT, Ch. 22  (II) Shopen, Vol. III, Ch. 4; Shopen, Vol. III, Ch. 5; OHLT Ch. 20
Week 5: 1 July - 5 July	Lecture	Word order configuration in the languages of the world
	Tutorial	Discussion on lecture content and exercises.
	Reading	Shopen, Vol. I, Ch. 2; OHLT Ch.13
Week 6: 8 July - 12 July	Lecture	(I) Noun Phrase structure; The major functions of the noun phrase  (II) Clause types
	Tutorial	Discussion on lecture content and exercises.
	Assessment	In-class test.
	Reading	(I) Shopen, Vol, II. Ch. 3; Shopen, Vol, I, Ch. 3; OHLT Chapters 15 & 19  (II) Shopen, Vol. I, Ch.4
Week 7: 15 July - 19 July	Lecture	Passive in the world's languages; Voice systems
	Tutorial	Discussion on lecture content and exercises.
	Reading	Shopen, Vol. I, Ch. 6; OHLT Chapters 17 & 18
Week 8: 22 July - 26 July	Lecture	Coordination; Complementation
	Tutorial	Discussion on lecture content and exercises.
	Reading	Shopen, Vol. II. Chapters 1 & 2; OHLT Ch. 21
Week 9: 29 July - 2 August	Lecture	Relative Clauses; Adverbial Clauses
	Tutorial	Discussion on lecture content and exercises.
	Reading	Shopen, Vol. II, Ch.4; Shopen, Vol II, Ch 5
Week 10: 5 August - 9 August	Lecture	Speech act distinction in grammar; semantic typology

Tutorial	Discussion on lecture content and exercises.
Reading	Reading: Shopen, Vol. II. Chapters 1 & 2; OHLT Ch. 21
Assessment	Final assignment (essay) due this week (see assessment schedule for details).



## Resources

### Prescribed Resources

- Shopen, T. (ed.) 2007/2010. *Language Typology and Syntactic Description*. Cambridge University Press. Volumes I, II, and III [eBook available at the UNSW Library].

<http://ebooks.cambridge.org/ebook.jsf?bid=CBO9780511619427>

<http://ebooks.cambridge.org/ebook.jsf?bid=CBO9780511619434>

<http://ebooks.cambridge.org/ebook.jsf?bid=CBO9780511618437>

- The Oxford Handbook of Linguistic Typology (OHLT), 2010/2012 [eBook available at the UNSW Library].

<http://www.oxfordhandbooks.com/view/10.1093/oxfordhb/9780199281251.001.0001/oxfordhb-9780199281251>

### 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.

## **Submission of Assessment Tasks**

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### **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](mailto: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:

**Copying:** using the same or very similar words to the original text or idea without acknowledging the source or using quotation marks. This also applies to images, art and design projects, as well as presentations where someone presents another's ideas or words without credit.

**Inappropriate paraphrasing:** Changing a few words and phrases while mostly retaining the original structure and/or progression of ideas of the original, and information 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 before the due date, or for the purpose of them plagiarising at any time, 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.

Correct referencing practices:

- Paraphrasing, summarising, essay writing and time management
- Appropriate use of and attribution for a range of materials including text, images, formulae and concepts.

Individual assistance is available on request from The Learning Centre (<http://www.lc.unsw.edu.au/>). Students are also reminded that careful time management is an important part of study and 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 also 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

Some of these areas will be familiar to you, others will be new. Gaining a solid understanding of all the related aspects of ELISE will help you make the most of your studies at UNSW.

<http://subjectguides.library.unsw.edu.au/elise/aboutelise>

## **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

<https://www.arts.unsw.edu.au/current-students/academic-information/protocols-guidelines/>

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