

LING79400: Special Topics - Linguistic Typology
Autumn 2022 preliminary SYLLABUS

Instructor: Prof. Juliette Blevins
Lectures: Tuesday, 2pm-4pm
Location: The Graduate Center
Office Hours: Wed. 12-3, 7400.09, and by appt.
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Course Description: Linguistic typology involves the cataloguing and classification of significant linguistic patterns, regularities, and contrasts. A central component of typology is to classify the nature and degree of linguistic diversity, and to assess proposed universals in light of this diversity. An additional goal of typological studies is to evaluate linguistic features that may cluster together, or conversely, show strong dissociative effects. In this course, we explore typology in order to determine a set of basic facts that linguistic theories should, ideally, account for. The course will include an overview of the world's languages and major language families, where they are spoken, and some of the more notable linguistic characteristics associated with particular language families and geographical areas, as well as issues related to language sampling in the creation of typological databases. After this, we turn to a detailed investigation of typology in each of the major grammatical components, starting with phonetics and phonology, then moving to morphology, syntax, and semantics. Typological databases in all of these areas will be curated by students in the class.

Requirements and grading: This is a graduate introductory course with no prerequisites. Students are expected to attend weekly lectures, to do required readings and mini-assignments, and to participate in class discussion. Attendance and participation will count as 10% of the final grade. There will be two in-class exams, a mid-term and a final. Each exam counts as 45% of the grade and is based on readings, assignments, and lecture material.

Readings: The textbook for the course is:
Velupillai, Viveka. 2012. *An Introduction to Linguistic Typology*. John Benjamins. This will be supplemented with readings from WALS (The World Atlas of Linguistic Structures), a range of typological databases in distinct subfields, and other resources accessible through the Association of Linguistic Typology website.

<https://wals.info/>
<https://linguistic-typology.org/resources/>

Additional useful texts/readings are:

Comrie, Bernard. 1989. *Language Universals and Linguistic Typology: Syntax and Morphology*. 2nd Edition. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
Croft, William. 2003. *Typology and Universals*. 2nd Edition. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
Deutscher, Guy. 2010. *Through the Language Glass: How words colour your world*. New York: Metropolitan Books.

Preliminary Course Outline and Schedule. Apart from week 1, readings should be done before each class meeting. Chapters are from course textbook unless noted otherwise. Mini-assignments will not be graded, but material related to these assignments and our in-class discussion of them may be on the exams.

<u>Date</u>	<u>wk</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Reading</u>	<u>Mini-assignment</u>
08/30	wk1	Intro to Linguistic Typology; typology and universals	Ch 1	
09/06	wk2	Overview of the world's languages	Ch 2	#1 out
09/13	wk3	Methodology	Ch 3	#1 due
09/28	wk4	Phonological typology I: features, segments, alternations	Ch 4; WALs Chs 1-5	#2 out
09/27	---	<i>no classes at GC</i>		
10/04	--	<i>no classes at GC</i>		
10/11	wk5	Phonological typology II: syllables, phonotactics, stress, tone	WALS Chs 12-17	#2 due
10/18	wk6	Morphological typology I	Chs 5, 6 WALS Chs 26-27	#3 out
10/25	wk7	Morphological typology II	Chs 7,8 WALS Chs 21,25	#3 due
11/01	wk8	<i>1 hour in-class midterm exam;</i>	Review for midterm	
11/08	wk9	Syntactic typology I: Simple clauses & word order	Chs 9,10	
11/15	wk10	Syntactic typology II: Complex clauses	Chs 11	#4 out
11/22	wk11	Speech acts & politeness politeness	Chs 12	#4 due
11/29	wk12	Semantics & language change	Chs 13, CLICS3	
12/06	wk13	Typology and cognition	Deutscher (2010)	
12/13	wk 14	One hour review; <i>1 hour in-class final exam</i>	Review for final	