

## Ling 455-Fall 2013 Typology

---

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| Instructor       | Dennis Ryan Storoshenko<br>dstorosh@ucalgary.ca       |
| Office Telephone | 403-220-6119  |
| Lectures         | Monday, Wednesday, Friday 10:00-10:50pm SA 235        |
| Office Hours     | Mondays & Thursdays 11:00am-12:00pm or by appointment |
| Office Location  | SSB 828   |
| Course Webpage   | see Blackboard  |
| Prerequisites    | Ling 301  |

---

### Course Goals

This is an interesting time for linguistic typology. There has been much recent discussion on the reality of linguistic universals, enough that the past three years' back and forth in the literature was worth an entire keynote at the most recent meeting of the Linguistic Society of America. We will begin the course with an update of the "what is typology?" discussion at the beginning of most textbooks, and introduce WALS, the online World Atlas of Language Structures. This will take us into a few weeks of discussion on the unity of language, discussing the nature, and some possible sources, of linguistic universals. From here, we move onto the diversity side of the course, examining some common typological variables that may seem exotic from the perspective of an English speaker, but occur frequently in languages of the world. Over the course of the semester, students will be required to "adopt" a language, ending the term with a typological profile of that language.

### Readings

The **required** textbook for this course will be:

- Whaley, Lindsay J. 1997. *Introduction to Typology: The Unity and Diversity of Language*. Thousand Oaks, California: Sage Publications Inc.

There will also be selected required readings from:

- Croft, William. 2003. *Typology and Universals*. Cambridge University Press.
- Newmeyer, Frederick. 2005. *Possible and Probable Languages*. Oxford University Press.
- Song, Jae Jung. 2011. *The Oxford Handbook of Linguistic Typology*. Oxford University Press.

Individual chapters will be available through Blackboard, along with other required journal articles specified below (in most cases, we will not cover the entire article, details will be specified in class):

- Evans, Nicholas and Stephen C. Levinson. 2009. The Myth of Language Universals: Language Diversity and its Importance for Cognitive Science, *Behavioral and Brain Sciences* 32: 429-492.
- Greenberg, Joseph. 1963. Some Universals of Grammar with Particular Reference to the Order of Meaningful Elements, in *Universals of Language*, ed. Joseph Greenberg. Cambridge MA: The MIT Press, 58-90.

- König, Ekkehard and Volker Gast. 2006. Focused Assertion of Identity: A Typology of Intensifiers, *Linguistic Typology* 10: 223-276.
- König, Ekkehard and Shigehiro Kokutani. 2006. Towards a Typology of Reciprocal Constructions: Focus on German and Japanese, *Linguistics* 44-2: 271-302.
- Matthewson, Lisa. in press. On How (Not) to Uncover Cross-Linguistic Variation, to appear in *Proceedings of NELS 42*. Available at author's website.

## Course Components, Requirements, and Assessment

### 1. Lectures

This is where key course material will be communicated; attendance is essential if you plan to keep up. Class discussion will be structured according to outlines distributed in class on a weekly basis. Because this is a seminar-style class, students are expected to participate in discussions relating to the assigned readings. Usually in conjunction with each assignment, students will be expected to give short oral presentations on some aspect of their adopted language, making up the balance of the participation grade.

### 2. Assignments and the Final Profile

There will be five assignments on a roughly bi-weekly schedule. These will contain a combination of writing assignments based on the readings, analysis of new data, and reports on aspects of the students' adopted languages, building up components of what will eventually be the typological profile. Assignments must be typed and submitted in hard copy. Grading will not only reflect content, but organization, style, and appropriate presentation of linguistic data. Each assignment will receive a score out of 100, with a one letter-grade per day penalty for late assignments (see grading breakdown below for letter grade equivalents), unless satisfactory documentation of circumstances for the late assignment (birth, death, marriage, illness, injury of student or a close family member) is provided.

### 3. Exams

The midterm exam will be 50 minutes, taking place in class on October 16. No make-up midterm will be offered. Should you miss the midterm and provide satisfactory documentation justifying your absence, the weight of the midterm will be distributed equally to the final exam and the assignments. The final exam will be cumulative, taking place on a date to be determined by the registrar. Content for both the midterm and the final will be similar to those portions of the assignments not relating to the typological profile.

#### Grading Breakdown:

|                     |     |
|---------------------|-----|
| Assignments         | 20% |
| Language Profile    | 20% |
| Class Participation | 10% |
| Midterm Exam        | 20% |
| Final Exam          | 30% |

#### Grading System:

|               |             |             |             |
|---------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| A+ = 97-100 % | B+ = 83-87% | C+ = 68-72% | D+ = 53-57% |
| A = 93-96 %   | B = 78-82%  | C = 63-67%  | D = 50-52%  |
| A- = 88-92 %  | B- = 73-77% | C- = 58-62% | F = 0-49%   |

(See the University Calendar for broader interpretation of the letter grades.)

## Course/Classroom Policies

- All cellphones or similar devices must be silenced in class. Taking calls or texting inside the classroom will not be tolerated.
- Your laptop/tablet should only be open for the purposes of note-taking, or viewing readings or lecture notes. Repeat violators may lose laptop/tablet privileges.
- Questions or comments related to course material should be communicated through Blackboard. If they can be dealt with through a 1-2 sentence response, the response will appear there, and will be shared to all if appropriate. Longer questions should be addressed at office hours.
- If you need to email the instructor for any administrative reason, use the email address on the front page of the syllabus, and be sure to include the course number in the subject line, making sure that your email is identifiable (i.e. your ucalgary account, or just remember to sign your name).
- Grammars of adopted languages will **not** be reserved at the library. Students will be responsible for renewing their own library loans in a timely manner.

## Rough Timeline of Topics to be Covered

| Week of                   | Topics Covered  | Readings   | Notes         |
|---------------------------|---|--|---------------|
| 9/9                       | Introduction, Review UG<br>Are Universals Real?<br>What is typology?            | Evans&Levinson<br>Matthewson<br>Whaley Ch 1,2      | A1 Dist       |
| 9/16                      | Types of Universals<br>Markedness<br>Semantic Map Model                         | Whaley 3.1, 3.3.0<br>Croft Ch 4<br>Croft 5.2-5.4   | A1 Due        |
| 9/23                      | Universals and GB Theory<br>Universals and Processing<br>Morphological Typology | Newmeyer 2.1-2.3<br>Newmeyer 5.1-5.5<br>Whaley 8.1 | A2 Dist       |
| 9/30                      | Morphological Expression<br>Lexical Categories                                  | Song Ch 22<br>Whaley Ch 4                          | A2 Due        |
| 10/7                      | Word Order  | Whaley Ch 5,6<br>Greenberg                         |               |
| 10/14<br>(no class 10/14) | <b>Midterm</b><br>Head and Dependent Marking                                    | Whaley 8.2   | <b>Oct 16</b> |
| 10/21                     | Case and Agreement  | Whaley Ch 9  | A3 Dist       |
| 10/28                     | Valence/Voice<br>Adding an Argument   | Whaley 11.1.3,11.2<br>Song Ch 18                   | A3 Due        |
| 10/28                     | Valence/Voice<br>Removing an Argument   | Whaley Ch 11.1.1-2<br>Song Ch 18                   | A4 Dist       |
| 11/11<br>(no class 11/11) | Intensifiers<br>Reciprocals   | König&Gast<br>König&Kokutani                       | A4 Due        |
| 11/18                     | Clause Types  | Whaley Ch 14                                       | A5 Dist       |
| 11/25                     | Subordination   | Whaley Ch 15                                       | A5 Due        |
| 12/2                      | Mood and Negation   | Whaley Ch 13                                       |               |