

LING 310 *Linguistic Typology*

Spring 2019

INSTRUCTOR: Jonathan Geary

EMAIL: jonathangeary@email.arizona.edu

OFFICE: Douglass 305

OFFICE HOURS: F 10:00-12:00*

*Please feel free to drop in unannounced. If this time does not work for you, you can email me to set up an alternate appointment. I am also available by Skype appointment.

Course Description:

This course will provide an overview of the field of linguistic typology. Topics include but are not limited to: genetic and typological classification of languages; word order, syntactic, morphological, and phonological typology; and explanations for cross-linguistic patterns. We will examine syntactic, morphological, and phonological data from various languages.

Audience: This course is housed in the Linguistics department, and it has as a prerequisite LING/PSY 201 *Introduction to Linguistics*. If you have never taken a linguistics course before, you should consider completing LING/PSY 201 first, but I can provide additional materials to give you an overview of core linguistic concepts (e.g. phonology, morphology, syntax, phoneme, morpheme). If at any point you feel that you are struggling to keep up with course concepts, I encourage you to make an appointment with me right away.

Objectives: At the end of the term, students will be able to address the following questions:

1. What kinds of patterns exist in and across human languages?
2. Which patterns are universal. Which patterns are rare?
3. How do we identify patterns? What resources exist for doing typological research?
4. Where might these patterns/universals come from, and what else can they tell us?

Lectures, Readings, and Videos: **Unless otherwise noted, all lectures, readings, and videos are required.* The lectures will be video podcasts on Panopto, which you can access by clicking on the ‘Content’ tab on the course site in D2L (d2l.arizona.edu). All content will be organized by unit and will be posted under the ‘Content’ tab on the D2L site.

It is essential that you plan “listening time” each week for the online lectures, much like you would plan your time around attending in-class lectures. The Panopto interface allows you to take notes directly inside the video while synced with the slides; I strongly encourage you to take advantage of this feature. Taking your own notes is a time-tested scholarly practice that will help you to gain mastery over the course material. In contrast, students who rely only on slides or notes provided by the professor do less well and have a lower chance of success.

Textbook: There is no required textbook. All required readings will be posted on D2L. Students are responsible for the information in the assigned readings. The readings are not guaranteed to be discussed in lecture, but the instructor can discuss the readings during office hours or by email.

Grading: Grades will be based on a point system. The course will be graded out of 500 points, which you can earn by completing the assignments described below. **No late work will be accepted without a legitimate, documented excuse (see Course Policies below).**

A = 450-500 points; B = 400-449 points; C = 350-399 points; D = 300-349 points; E ≤ 299 points

Assignments:

Quizzes (150 points):

Content quizzes (6 at 25 points each) = 150 points

Written Assignments (135 points):

Primary written assignments (3 at 25 points each) = 75 points

Secondary written assignments (3 at 20 points each) = 60 points

Research Paper (150 points):

Rough draft of research paper = 50 points

Final draft of research paper = 100 points

Presentation of Research Paper (65 points):

Video presentation (posted to D2L discussion board) = 45 points

Reply to classmate's presentation (2 at 10 points each) = 20 points

Total = 500 points

Description of Major Assignments

(0) Syllabus Quiz (0 points)

An untimed syllabus quiz will become available under the 'Quiz' tab on the first day of class. You may retake the syllabus quiz as many times as necessary, but you must receive a 100% on the quiz to have access to any other course materials (besides the syllabus).

(1) Quizzes (150 points)

You will complete six 20-question quizzes on the content of the readings and lectures, and you will have 60 minutes to complete each quiz. You may make one attempt at each quiz. The relevant readings/lectures are listed in the description for each quiz. *The purpose of the quizzes is to make sure that you are keeping on top of the readings and lectures.*

(2) Written Assignments (135 points)

You will complete six written assignments in which you will (a) plan and conduct research on a language or languages of your choosing (the three "primary written assignments") or (b) apply knowledge acquired from the course to analyzing prepared data from a set of languages (the three "secondary written assignments"). *The purpose of these assignments is to give you experience conducting research and making typological analyses. Additionally, the four "primary written assignments" will contribute to your final research paper.*

(3) Research Paper (150 points)

You will complete a final research paper in which you describe various structural properties of a language of your choosing and analyze whether your language fits the typological generalizations we have discussed in this course. You will submit both a rough draft and a final draft. You will complete much of the work for these assignments through the four “primary written assignments” spread throughout the semester. *The purpose of these assignments is to give you experience conducting research and making typological analyses, and applying the knowledge of linguistic typology you acquired in this class.*

(4) Presentation of Research Paper (65 points)

You will record yourself giving a 5-10 minute presentation on your final research paper, which you will share via a D2L discussion board post (you may use YouTube, Panopto, or another software to record/edit/host your presentation). Then, you will reply to two of your classmate’s presentations. Each reply post should be at least 150 words in length and may include questions or observations you have about their language. Be sure to reply to each other as you would if you were holding a substantive and respectful conversation. Keep your replies contentful, and make sure they relate to the presentation. You risk losing some or all points for replies such as “I found X fascinating” without clearly articulating why “X” is of *typological interest*, for writing off-topic, or for repetitiveness.

Your presentation will be graded based on the clarity and substance of your presentation, and on your demonstrating mastery of the course content. Your replies will be graded based on the substance of your replies to others’ presentations. *The purpose of these assignments is for you to gain experience presenting linguistic research and articulating about linguistic and typological terms/concepts you learned about in the course.*

(5) Extra Credit (25 points, maximum)

There are various ways for you to earn extra points towards your overall grade in this class (and I may share other extra credit opportunities as the semester unfolds):

Experiment Participation: You can earn extra credit by participating in linguistics research experiments. Research studies are announced and organized in an online system called [SONA](https://sona.princeton.edu). To access available studies, you first need to request an account, which you can learn how to do here: <https://linguistics.arizona.edu/research-opportunities>. Once you’ve requested an account, you will receive an email with your login and password. Once you’ve created a SONA account, log into your account to see available studies and to sign up for participation in one or more research studies. Participation in an experiment will typically earn you one credit on SONA, and each credit is worth 5 points in this class.

Office Hours: You can earn extra credit by attending office hours. You must come to office hours prepared with substantive questions to ask about course material or something related to linguistics (grade queries, quiz review, etc. do not count, nor does simply asking me to explain one of the readings). Each office hours visit is worth 5 points, though whether a visit “counts” for extra credit is up to the discretion of the instructor.

Assignments are due by **10:00 PM** on the date listed in the course calendar. If you anticipate this being an issue (e.g. because you work until 10:00 PM), please contact me immediately.

Course Policies

Course deadlines are NOT flexible without the prior approval of the instructor. No late work will be accepted. If you have an emergency, you must notify me as soon as possible, AND provide documentation of the emergency, AND complete the work as promptly as possible, given the circumstances (we will determine a schedule together).

If, for instance, you skip an assignment and later realize that you needed to complete that assignment to receive a particular grade, I will NOT allow you to submit the assignment late. Technical glitches in uploading documents, taking quizzes, reviewing material, etc. are not valid reasons for missing deadlines. Although technical issues with D2L are not unheard of, they are not sufficient excuses for a late assignment or submission. Please plan ahead so that any technical issues you may have can be addressed in plenty of time to meet posted deadlines (take screenshots to document your difficulties, which can also support the legitimacy of your issue). If you need special access to accommodate an early schedule, please let me know at least one week in advance so that I can make the relevant adjustments in D2L. Assignments will NOT be accepted late and/or CANNOT be made up unless you have a documented medical or family emergency, have a Dean's Excuse, or must miss required work for religious reasons (as recognized by UA policy). If you miss coursework for any other reason, you will lose all points for that assignment.

Students facing exceptional circumstances: If exceptional circumstances arise or are anticipated during the term, such as chronic illness, pregnancy or childbirth, trauma, or an emergency with unforeseen and long-term impacts, please contact me as soon as possible to inform me of the situation. Legitimate and official documentation of your situation must be provided prior to negotiating an approved change of schedule for the class, should you request such modification. In addition, I expect regular and timely contact during the semester, which includes informing me immediately of any changes to your situation that may impact your ability to fully participate in the class and/or to meet deadlines under the approved alternate schedule. It is your responsibility to inform me prior to or immediately following a (missed) revised deadline so that we can work together to accommodate its effect on your course participation. Again, it is imperative that you keep in continued and consistent contact with me in order for me to be able to accommodate your needs and so that I can adjust my schedule accordingly. Failure to keep in touch will be considered a deviation from our agreement and may result in said agreement becoming null and void.

I will check my e-mail at least once per day (except weekends), so you can expect a 24 hour response time. Plan ahead! If you e-mail me on Friday evening, you may not get an answer until late on Monday.

Email etiquette: Please feel free to call me "Jonathan" or "Jon". If referring to your instructors by their first name makes you uncomfortable, you may also call me "Mr. Geary". Please do not refer to me as "Dr. Geary" or "Professor Geary", as I am still a PhD-candidate and have not yet earned those titles. Please keep your emails respectful and informative. I can help you best if you are clear and polite in your correspondence, and I will reply in kind.

You must motivate yourself. It is your responsibility to check D2L for announcements *every day*. You are responsible for your own participation. You are responsible for viewing all of the lectures and videos, for reading all of the assigned readings, and for completing all of the assignments on time.

You are required to cite your sources in any written assignment you submit. Give credit where credit is due; if an idea is not yours, you cannot present it as yours. If you do not cite your sources where appropriate, you will not receive credit for the assignment. I do not care how you cite your sources (you can use MLA, APA, Chicago, or something else), as long as you cite your sources in some way. I understand that this may be new to some students. If that is the case, or if you have questions regarding what needs cited, please contact me so that I may help you.

Course documents (aside from the grading policy) may change, with reasonable advance notice from the instructor.

Grading Philosophy: Your grade in this course will reflect the quality and timeliness of submitted assignments as well as your level of mastery of the course objectives as demonstrated on these assignments. Arguing a grade based on any criteria aside from these is inappropriate.

Grade Review Policy: If at any point you feel that you have received a grade that is unfair or inaccurate, please inform me in writing of your concern within **one week** of having received the grade. I will consider the issue carefully and reply to you as soon as possible with either a grade correction or a justification of why I believe the original grade should stand. In no case will your request for a grade review result in punitive measures being taken against you in this course. You are encouraged to request clarification or correction for any grading concern. If, however, you request a grade review without having checked any feedback I have already provided, I will not consider your request.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you are comfortable with the technologies that are necessary for successful participation in this course. If you have questions or concerns about the technological aspects of this course, there are university resources that are available to help you:

For general computing questions: <https://it.arizona.edu/service/247-it-support>.

For help with D2L: e-mail d2l@email.arizona.edu.

This course is web-delivered. Technical problems are to be expected. You must consider this possibility and have a back-up plan for completing your work on time. If you do experience a technical problem that is beyond your control (network interruptions, etc.), notify me as soon as possible, AND submit a problem report to the D2L team as promptly as possible, AND complete the work ASAP. If you do not follow these instructions, late work will not be accepted.

To submit a problem report to D2L:

- (a) Go to the D2L Help page at <http://help.D2L.arizona.edu> and click on “Report a Problem,” OR
- (b) e-mail d2l@email.arizona.edu, and copy the instructor: jonathangeary@email.arizona.edu.

Academic Integrity Policy: While you are encouraged to form study groups to discuss your homework assignments for the course, all work must be typed and completed individually.

- It is not acceptable to collaborate in any way on any assignment.
- It is not acceptable to submit work for this course which has been previously submitted by you or by anyone else for academic credit at any time.
- It is not acceptable to falsify any component of any document that you submit to this class for a grade.
- It is not acceptable to provide your work to other students in a manner that might facilitate their submission of your work under their name.
- It is not acceptable for any two or more students to submit assignments with substantial identical content.
- It is not acceptable for any student to submit assignments containing unattributed quotations or paraphrases from another source (see citation policy above).

Any violation of the Code of Academic Integrity will lead to either a grade of zero on the relevant assignment, a reduction in course grade, or a failing grade in the course. According to University Policy, further disciplinary action may be pursued for anyone with multiple code violations. The Code of Academic Integrity can be found at: <http://deanofstudents.arizona.edu/codeofacademicintegrity>.

Students with disabilities: If you anticipate the need for reasonable accommodation to meet the requirements of this course, you must register with the Disability Resource Center (phone: 520.621.3268; web: <http://drc.arizona.edu/>) and request that they send me official notification of your accommodation needs as soon as possible. Please plan to email me personally to discuss accommodations and how my course requirements may impact your ability to fully participate. We can then plan how best to coordinate your accommodation.

Adding after the first day of class: Provided you register within the appropriate time-frame and/or have my approval, you are welcome to join the course late. However, please be aware that you may have missed assignments and deadlines, and that I am NOT obligated to provide you with make-up opportunities or extensions for the deadlines you have missed. While adding the class after the first day will not prevent you from earning an excellent grade, it is not valid to assume that you can add late without incurring possible costs, regardless of the reason for your late admission to the course. You are responsible for learning about the material you missed, and you are responsible for working through the remaining items in the course calendar in order to earn the grade you hope to achieve this semester.