LIN476H5-S 2021:
Language Diversity and
Language Universals

Department of Language Studies

Land Acknowledgment

For thousands of years the land on which the University of Toronto operates has been occupied by the Huron-Wendat, the Seneca, and most recently, the Mississaugas of the Credit River, who are currently the acknowledged caretakers. The territory is subject to the Dish With One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant, an agreement between the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, the Anishinaabeg, and allied nations to peaceably share and care for the resources around the Great Lakes. Today, this meeting place is the home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island, and we are grateful to have the opportunity to live, work, and teach on this land.

Course and instructor information

LIN476H5-S Language Diversity and Language Universals (HUM)	
This course examines cross-linguistics typological features found in the languages of the world. Special attention is given to describing phonological, morphological or syntactic patterns found cross-linguistically. The goal of the course is to draw on the range of variation in order to uncover language universals. [24L]	
Prerequisites	LIN232H5 and 0.5 credit in a 300-level LIN course; Recommended preparation: LIN231H5
Exclusions	LIN406H5
Lecture	Thursdays 11:00-13:00 (online synchronous using Bb Collaborate)
Tutorial	N/A
Office hours	Fridays 11:00-12:00 EST using Bb Collaborate
Instructor	Michelle Troberg troberg.teaching@utoronto.ca
Teaching Assistant	Sam Jambrović samuel.jambrovic@utoronto.ca

Course design

Course Description and Goals

Linguistic typology is the study of how languages differ and how they are alike in terms of their phonological, morphological, syntactic, and for some linguists, semantic features (as opposed to their genetic affiliation or areal distribution). This course focuses on syntax and morphology, but we'll talk a little bit about phonological typology too. We will discuss typological properties that have been studied most intensively over the last 60 years, and we will take advantage of online resources, chiefly the *World Atlas of Linguistic Structures (WALS)*.
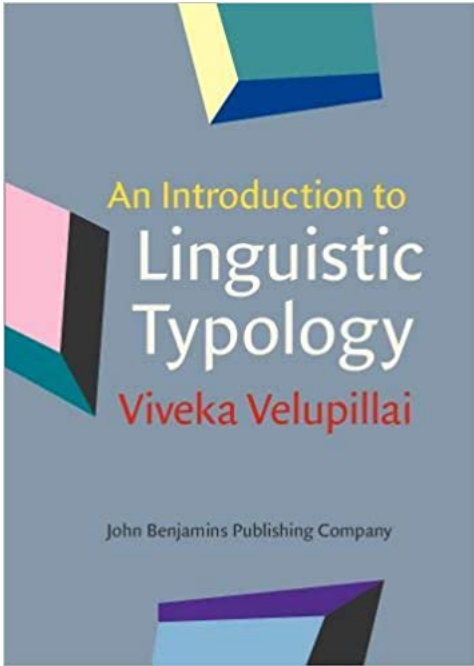
Key Learning Outcomes

1. Develop an informed answer to the following questions:
   - In what terms can we characterize language diversity and unity?
   - How is typological classification useful? What are its limitations?
   - What does it mean for human languages to be at once diverse and unified?

2. Identify certain syntactic, morphological, lexical, and phonological properties as points for typological classification.

3. Interpret unrestricted, implicational, statistical, and absolute universals.

4. Interpret data glossed according to the Leipzig glossing convention; illustrate new data in terms of this glossing convention.

5. Demonstrate the ability to use various databases and standard research methods to learn and write about an understudied language; build awareness of the research/writing process and collaborative work.

6. Demonstrate a critical understaning about the methodology of typological investigation and classification and on what principles the databases we use are constructed.

7. Critically analyse certain classifications in a theoretically informed way.

Assessment

Engagement	20%	Ongoing	Completion of in-class activities and quizzes Interventions, reflective comments, positive role in group work
Pre-lecture exercises	**20%**	Best 9/10	Weekly: Online due Thursdays 10:00 am EST
Homework assignments	**30%**	3 assignments	Approximately every three weeks due Thursdays 10:00 am EST
Language report	**30%**	12.5% Part I 12.5% Part II 5% Presentation	Due Thursday 10:00 am EST: Feb.25; April 8 groups of 5-6

Weekly schedule (5-6 hours)

- *Preparation for lecture*:
  - Complete the weekly readings and watch any accompanying videos (approx. 2 hrs)
  - Some weeks you may be asked to find specific data or information to bring to the following class
- Pre-lecture exercise: weekly; due Thursday at 10:00 EST
  - Quiz based on the readings (approx 0.5 hr)
- **Thursday Lecture**: 11:00-13:00 EST.
  - Synchronous via Bb Collaborate. Lectures will consist of a series of mini-lessons (delivered by me in real time), interspersed by questions, discussion, and time to apply concepts to data. The approach is interactive and practical.
- *Friday Office hour:* 11:00-12:00 EST
  - Informal, drop-in via Bb Collaborate
- Homework and Language Reports: due Thursdays at 10:00 EST

Materials

- Our base will be Velupillai's *Linguistic Typology*. We will make thorough use of this text.

- Velupillai, Viveka. 2013. *An Introduction to Linguistic Typology*. Amsterdam/Philadelphia: John Benjamins.

- Try finding used or new copies online - they are often less expensive than bookstores. An excellent place to look for used copies is http://tusbe.com.

- Occasionally, there will be videos to watch and supplementary readings to complete. These will be posted in our Quercus course shell.

Week	Date	Preparation	Thursday Lecture	Assessments
1	Jan.11-17	Read: Velupillai ch.1 Pre-lecture exercise 1	Introduction; WALS; Syllabus Discussion & Activities	
2	Jan.18-24	Read: Velupillai ch.2&3 Pre-lecture exercise 2	Typology and its methodology Discussion & Activities	
3	Jan.25-31	Read: Velupillai ch.4 Pre-lecture exercise 3	Phonology Discussion & Activities	
4	Feb.1-7	Read: Velupillai ch.5 Pre-lecture exercise 4	Morphology Discussion & Activities	HW1 posted Meeting#1 about Language Report
5	Feb.8-14	Reading: TBA Pre-lecture exercise 5	Morphology (Invited speaker on polysynthesis) Discussion & Activities	**HW1 due** Meeting#1 about Language Report
Reading Week	Feb.15-21			

Week	Date	Preparation	Thursday lecture	Assignments
6	Feb.22-28	Read: Velupillai ch.6 Pre-lecture exercise 6	The lexicon and its classes Discussion & Activities	**Language Report I due**
7	Mar.1-7	Read: Velupillai ch.7 Pre-lecture exercise 7	Nominal categories and syntax Discussion & Activities	Meeting#2 about Language Report
8	Mar.8-14	Read: Velupillai ch.9 Pre-lecture exercise 8	Simple clauses Discussion & Activities	HW2 posted Meeting#2 about Language Report
9	Mar.15-21	Read: Velupillai ch.10 Pre-lecture exercise 9	Word order Discussion & Activities	**HW2 due**
10	Mar.22-28	Reading: TBA Pre-lecture exercise 10	Word order Discussion & Activities	HW3 posted
11	Mar.29-April 4	*Finish up term work; prepare group ppt presentation*	5+5 presentations	**HW3 due** 5+5 presentation
12	April 5-11	*Finish up term work; prepare group ppt presentation*	5+5 presentations Wrap up, reflections	**Language Report II due** 5+5 presentation

Course Policies

General conduct

- We have the expectation that students will treat each other and all faculty, staff, and TAs with respect and honesty. Students can expect the same from us.

Online expectations

- We expect that you will show up to online lectures as you if you were appearing in person: ready to participate and communicate visually and/or orally. Please comply with the University of Toronto [tech requirements for online learning](.).

- For help, visit the [UTM Library Learn Anywhere resource website](.).

Note that as this course is taught fully on-line, lectures (LEC) will take place on snow days, should they occur.

Quercus

- Quercus is an essential component of the course. To access the course website, go to the UofT dashboard page at https://q.utoronto.ca and log in using your UTORid and password.

- If you do not have a working UTORid, go to http://www.utorid.utoronto.ca to activate it.

- If you need help activating your UTORid, contact help.desk@utoronto.ca.

- If you need help accessing Quercus, check https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/46670.

Online synchronous delivery and course material

- This course is delivered entirely online. Since it is scheduled as online <u>synchronous</u>, you are expected to be available during the lecture timeslot and your tutorial timeslot, regardless of which time zone you are in.

- The lectures and tutorials will <u>*not*</u> be recorded, but the pdf lecture slides will be posted before the lecture.

- You may not record any part of the lectures or tutorials.

- You are not authorized to reproduce or distribute course material, in any form or medium.

Issue	How to contact me
accommodation missed assignment missed lecture technical difficulty during an assessment personal issue about submission of work question about your grade on an assignment	Office hours via Bb Collaborate (Tuesdays 13:00-14:00) email: troberg.teaching@utoronto.ca
you can't find information or links uncertainty about course procedures questions about a lecture questions about specific concepts questions about practice exercises	Discussion board (Quercus) Office hours via Bb Collaborate (Tuesdays 13:00-14:00)

Email policy

- Please include the course code (**LIN476**) in the subject line.
- I will only respond to **@mail.utoronto.ca** email addresses.
- Please address me using my professional title: Professor Troberg
- Please close your email message with your full name (as you wish me to address you).
- Please allow for 48 hours (excluding weekends) for an answer.
- troberg.teaching@utoronto.ca

Reference letter policy

- One of the best things about being an academic instructor is being able to help students pursue their goals by discussing their plans for careers inside or outside of the university. If you are considering applying for a master's program, a job, an internship or a volunteering position, and you would like me to write you a letter of recommendation, please make sure I actually know you. It is very hard to write a reference letter for someone who I've taught but have never spoken with outside of class. In such cases, I will generally turn down reference letter requests because I feel I cannot properly write about a student's potential. So that we come to know each other, please actively participate in the course (be prepared, curious, reflective, positive, engaged) and if you wish, attend office hours to discuss questions or related interests with me.

Assignment submission

Submission: Assignments are to be submitted electronically via Quercus.

Turnitin: Normally, students will be required to submit their course essays to Turnitin.com for a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their essays to be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of the Turnitin.com service are described on the Turnitin.com web site.

Students are permitted to opt out of using Turnitin. In order to do so, the student must notify the instructor via email by the end of the 3rd week of class. Students who opt-out will submit their assignment to their TA via email and we will meet in order to establish other ways which the TA or instructor will check the work with the same rigour .

Penalty for Lateness

Pre- lecture exercises. Missed submissions cannot be made up for any reason.

Late homework assignments and language reports. A penalty of 5% per calendar day (including week-ends and holidays) up to and including the last day of classes, will be applied by the Instructor. After the last day of classes, a penalty of 10% per calendar day will be applied by the Undergraduate Coordinator on behalf of the Department. Once the assignments have been graded and returned to the class, I will no longer accept late assignements. No penalty will be assigned if a request for special consideration is successful.

Special Consideration

- For graded work worth less than 10%
  - Individual Course Instructors have discretion about the way they grant special consideration.
- For graded work worth more than 10%
  - If you have to miss a homework assignment or language report deadline for reasons beyond your control (e.g. illness or an accident), you may submit a request for special consideration. To submit your request you must
  - 1) complete the Special Consideration Form online on the Department of Language Studies website:
    - https://www.utm.utoronto.ca/language-studies/student-forms/special-consideration-request
  - 2) declare your absence on ACORN
- Requests for Submission of Term Work Beyond the last day of classes
  - Students who seek to be granted more time to complete term work beyond the last day of class must submit their request directly to the Department (see above process for Special Consideration). This request covers the period following the last day of classes and ends on the last day of the exam period. Recall that special consideration is only available for the midterm and final tests.

Grading Scheme

percentage	grade	value	definitions	description
90-100	A+	4.0	Excellent	*Strong evidence of original thinking; good organization, capacity to analyze and synthesize; superior grasp of subject matter with sound critical evaluations; evidence of extensive knowledge base.*
85-89	A	4.0		
80-84	A-	3.7		
77-79	B+	3.3	Good	*Evidence of grasp of subject matter, some evidence of critical capacity and analytic ability; reasonable understanding of relevant issues; evidence of familiarity with the literature.*
73-76	B	3.0		
70-72	B-	2.7		
67-69	C+	2.3	Adequate	*Student who is profiting from their university experience; understanding of the subject matter; ability to develop solutions to simple problems in the material.*
63-66	C	2.0		
60-62	C-	1.7		
57-59	D+	1.3	Marginal	*Some evidence of familiarity with subject matter and some evidence that critical and analytic skills have been developed.*
53-56	D	1.0		
50-52	D-	0.7		
0-49	F	0.0	Inadequate	*Little evidence of even superficial understanding of subject matter; weakness in critical and analytical skills, with limited or irrelevant use of literature.*

https://student.utm.utoronto.ca/calendar//calendar_detail2.pl?Topic=Grading%20Scheme&Searchstring=grading

Your grades

It is recommended that you check your grades regularly on the course webpage and let me know of any discrepancies. If you wish to dispute a grade, please bring it to my attention *within a week* of the date it was returned to you by sending an email detailing which assignment or quiz it is about, as well as a motivation for the regrading request.

Extra help

If you would like extra help on the course material, please don't hesitate to join me during office hours. If that isn't possible, set up an appointment with me.

The Robert Gillespie Academic Skills Centre (RGASC) also offers many services to students, including individual appointments and academic skills workshops. Learn more about the centre [here](#).

Academic Guidelines

- It is your responsibility to ensure that you have met all prerequisites listed in the UTM Academic Calendar 2020-2021 for this course. If you lack prerequisites, you may be removed from the course up until the last day to add a course. Further information about academic regulations, course withdrawal dates, and credits can be found in the University of Toronto Mississauga Academic Calendar at:
  - https://student.utm.utoronto.ca/calendar/calendar.pl
- Please ensure that you comply with and understand all of the academic and non-academic policies, rules and regulations of the University as set out in the Calendar.
- If you need information or support about studying, preparing for exams, note-taking or time management, free workshops and individual advice are available throughout the year from the Robert Gillespie Academic Skills Centre (MN 3251) at 905-828-5406 —
  - https://www.utm.utoronto.ca/asc/undergraduate-students

Intellectual property rights

- Please be advised that the intellectual property rights in the material referred to on this syllabus and posted on the course website may belong to the course instructor or other persons. You are not authorized to reproduce or distribute such material, in any form or medium, without the prior consent of the intellectual property owner.

- Violation of intellectual property rights may be a violation of the law and University of Toronto policies and may entail significant repercussions for the person found to have engaged in such act. If you have any questions regarding your right to use the material in a manner other than as set forth in the syllabus, please speak to your instructor.

Academic Conduct

With regard to remote learning and online courses, UTM wishes to remind students that they are expected to adhere to the [Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters](#) regardless of the course delivery method. By offering students the opportunity to learn remotely, UTM expects that students will maintain the same academic honesty and integrity that they would in a classroom setting. Potential academic offences in a digital context include, but are not limited to:

- Accessing unauthorized resources (search engines, chat rooms, Reddit, etc.) for assessments.

- Using technological aids (e.g. software) beyond what is listed as permitted in an assessment.

- Posting test, essay, or exam questions to message boards or social media.

- Creating, accessing, and sharing assessment questions and answers in virtual "course groups."

- Working collaboratively, in-person or online, with others on assessments that are expected to be completed individually.

All suspected cases of academic dishonesty will be investigated following procedures outlined in the Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters. If you have questions or concerns about what constitutes appropriate academic behaviour or appropriate research and citation methods, you are expected to seek out additional information on academic integrity from your instructor or from other institutional resources.

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

- Honesty and fairness are considered fundamental to the University's mission, and, as a result, all those who violate those principles are dealt with as if they were damaging the integrity of the University itself. When students are suspected of cheating or a similar academic offence, they are typically surprised at how formally and seriously the matter is dealt with -- and how severe the consequences can be if it is determined that cheating did occur. The University of Toronto treats cases of cheating and plagiarism very seriously. Please take the time to review the section of Academic Honesty in the *Academic Calendar*:

- https://student.utm.utoronto.ca/calendar/calendar_detail2.pl?Topic=Academic%20Honesty

- Plagiarism is a serious offence, and it can take several different forms. Two of the most common are: 1) handing in work that was done in conjunction with or by another student and passing it off as your own; and 2) using published work in a way that does not give credit to the author.

- From the *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters*: "It shall be an offence for a student to knowingly: represent as one's own any idea or expression of an idea or work of another in any academic examination or term test or in connection with any other form of academic work, i.e. to commit plagiarism. Wherever in the Code an offence is described as depending on "knowing", the offence shall likewise be deemed to have been committed if the person ought reasonably to have known." All students must refer to these websites to obtain information on what constitutes plagiarism:

- https://www.utm.utoronto.ca/academic-integrity/about-us

- http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/using-sources/how-not-to-plagiarize

- If questions arise after reading the material on the websites, consult your instructor.

- **Plagiarism will not be tolerated**.

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  - **Accessing unauthorized resources (search engines, chat rooms, Reddit, etc.) for assessments.**
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  - **Creating, accessing, and sharing assessment questions and answers in virtual "course groups."**
  - **Working collaboratively, in-person or online, with others on assessments that are expected to be completed individually.**

- All suspected cases of academic dishonesty will be investigated following procedures outlined in the [Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters](#). If you have questions or concerns about what constitutes appropriate academic behaviour or appropriate research and citation methods, you are expected to seek out additional information on academic integrity from your instructor or from other [institutional resources.](#)

Accommodation

- The University provides academic accommodations for students with disabilities in accordance with the terms of the *Ontario Human Rights Code*. This occurs through a collaborative process that acknowledges a collective obligation to develop an accessible learning environment that both meets the needs of students and preserves the essential academic requirements of the University's courses and programs. For more information on services and resources available to instructors
and students, please contact Accessibility Resources and Disability Services at
< https://www.utm.utoronto.ca/accessibility/ >.

- Students with special needs are encouraged to contact the Accessibility Office (2037 Davis Building), 905-828-3847 at
< https://www.utm.utoronto.ca/accessibility/ >. Each year, the Accessibility Office is looking for peer-note takers. It is a great volunteering opportunity and a nice way to show that you care for your peers who need you in something you are good at. If you are interested in helping your peers, please apply to
< access.utm@utoronto.ca >.

Student Support

- The Robert Gillespie Academic Skills Centre (RGASC) is located in Room 3251 on the third floor of the Maanjiwe nendamowinan Building. The RGASC offers individual consultations, workshops (many CCR-accredited), and a wide range of programs to help students identify and develop the academic skills they need for success in their studies. Visit the RGASC website to explore their online resources, book a face-to-face or online appointment, or learn about other programming such as Writing Retreats, the Program for Accessing Research Training (PART), drop-in hours for Mathematics, Writing, and Study Skills, and dedicated resources for English Language Learners.

Equity Statement

- The University of Toronto is committed to equity, human rights and respect for diversity. All members of the learning environment in this course should strive to create an atmosphere of mutual respect where all members of our community can express themselves, engage with each other, and respect one another's differences. U of T does not condone discrimination or harassment against any persons or communities. It is our collective responsibility to create a space that is inclusive and welcomes discussion. Discrimination, harassment and hate speech will not be tolerated. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns you may contact the UTM Equity and Diversity officer at edo.utm@utoronto.ca or the University of Toronto Mississauga Students' Union Vice President Equity at vpequity@utmsu.ca.

Academic Rights

- You, as a student at UTM, have the right to:

- Receive a syllabus by the first day of class.

- Rely upon a syllabus once a course is started. An instructor may only change marked assignments by following the University Assessment and Grading Practices Policy provision 1.3.

- Refuse to use turnitin.com (you must be offered an alternative form of submission).

- Have access to your instructor for consultation during a course or follow up with the department chair if the instructor is unavailable.

- Ask the person who marked your term work for a re-evaluation if you feel it was not fairly graded. You have up to one month from the date of return of the item to inquire about the mark. If you are not satisfied with a re-evaluation, you may appeal to the instructor in charge of the course if the instructor did not mark the work. If your work is remarked, you must accept the resulting mark. You may only appeal a mark beyond the instructor if the term work was worth at least 20% of the course mark.

- Receive at least one significant mark (15% for H courses, 25% for Y courses) before the last day you can drop a course for H courses (Fall term: November 11; Winter term: March 7), and the last day of classes in the first week of January for Y courses taught in the Fall/Winter terms.

- Submit handwritten essays so long as they are neatly written.

- Have no assignment worth 100% of your final grade.

- Not have a term test worth more than 25% in the last two weeks of class.

- Retain intellectual property rights to your research.

- Receive all your assignments once graded.

- View your final exams. To see a final exam, you must submit an online Exam Reproduction Request < https://student.utm.utoronto.ca/examreproduction/ > within 6 months of the exam. There is a small non- refundable fee.

- Privacy of your final grades.

- Arrange for representation from Downtown Legal Services (DLS), a representative from the UTM Students' Union (UTMSU), and/or other forms of support if you are charged with an academic offence.