LING 580A:
Topics in Comparative and Diachronic Syntax
Spring 2013, University of Washington
Instructor: Edith Aldridge

Syllabus

Instructor: Edith Aldridge
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Office hours: Times available on MWF by appointment

Time:  W 3:30-5:50
Location: DEN 309

Overview and objectives:
In this seminar, we will explore a variety of topics relating to comparative and diachronic syntax. We will begin by looking at the typology of ergative languages and how they differ parametrically from accusative languages. We will also consider reanalysis of embedded nominalizations as clausal projections, as well as word order change and typology. However, we will not be limited to these specific questions but will concern ourselves broadly with parametric variation and syntactic change.

Requirements: Evaluation in this course will depend on the following.

- Preparation and class participation: 10%
- Weekly participation in GoPost discussion board: 10%
- Presentation 1: 15%
- Presentation 2: 15%
- Preliminary paper: 20%
- Final Paper: 30%
  100%

Preparation and class participation:
Students are expected to attend all class meetings, to have read the assigned readings, and to participate in class discussions.

Participation in Discussion Board:
Students are expected to make at least one entry per reading on the course GoPost discussion board before each class meeting. The link to the discussion board can be found on the course web site.
**Presentation 1:**
Each student will present one of the assigned readings for the class.

**Presentation 2:**
Students will present the main points from their final papers.

**Preliminary Paper (literature review):**
Students will write a critical review of three or more articles that will form all or part of the literature review for their final papers.

**Final Paper:**
Students will write an original research paper of approximately 15-20 pages (double-spaced) on a topic related to the course theme. Work on the paper must be exclusively your own, and you must give appropriate citations for any resources you consult, including online resources. The links below can help you familiarize yourself with policies concerning academic honesty.

http://depts.washington.edu/grading/issue1/honesty.htm#plagiarism

http://www.washington.edu/students/handbook/conduct.html

**Disability Accommodations:**
To request special accommodations due to a disability, please contact Disabled Student Services as soon as possible 448 Schmitz, Box 355839, tel. 543-8924, <uwdss@u.washington.edu>. If you already have a letter from Disabled Student Services indicating that you have a disability requiring academic accommodations, please let me see this letter as soon as possible. No retroactive accommodations will be given.

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**Course Outline and Schedule**

This schedule is not yet complete. Additional topics will be added soon.

4/3  **Ergative Typology**

4/10  **Ergativity and Nominalization**


4/17  Ergativity/Nominalization: Diachronic connection

4/24 Agreement

5/1 More Agreement and Case

5/3  Preliminary papers due

5/8 Person Case Constraint

5/15 Word Order Change

5/22 Nominalization and stranding
http://westernlinguistics.ca/afla/proceedings/afla18/index.htm
Parameters
   In Theresa Biberauer, Anders Holmberg, Ian Roberts, and Michelle Sheehan (eds.),
   *Parametric Variation: Null Subjects in Minimalist Theory*, 1-57. Cambridge, UK:
   Cambridge University Press.
Whitman, John and Yuko Yanagida. To appear. The Formal Syntax of Alignment
   University Press.

6/5  Presentation 2

6/12  Final papers due