

***LING 125b Universal Grammar***  
***Fall 2004***

**Meeting Time:** M, W, Th 1:10-2:00 pm  
**Location:** Volen 106  
**Instructor:** Barbara Citko  
**Instructor's Office:** Volen 214  
**Office Hours:** M 2pm-3pm and W 11-12am  
**Office Phone:** x63279  
**Email:** [bcitko@brandeis.edu](mailto:bcitko@brandeis.edu)

**Course Description:**

This course is an introduction to the issues concerning language typology, language universals, and universal grammar. Upon completion of this course, you will be able to (a) to understand the semantic and pragmatic categories grammaticalized in the grammars of the world's languages, and the different formal means that languages can utilize in expressing a particular semantic or pragmatic category; (b) to understand the markedness and hierarchical relations between the different formal means of expression; (c) to understand the relationships among typology and universals; (d) to apply knowledge of typology and universals to a description of a particular language.

**Textbook:**

Whaley, L. 1997. Introduction to Typology. The Unity and Diversity of Language. Sage Publications.

**Other Course Materials** (will be made available on Web CT):

Comrie, Bernard (1989). Language universals and linguistic typology: Syntax and morphology (2nd edition). Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Croft, William (1990). Typology and universals. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Dryer, Matthew S. (1992). The Greenbergian word order correlations. *Language* 68(1):81-138.

Greenberg, Joseph H. (1963). Some universals of grammar with particular reference to the order of meaningful elements. In Joseph H. Greenberg (ed.), *Universals of language*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press. Reprinted in Keith Denning and Suzanne Kemmer (eds.) (1990), *On language: Selected writings of Joseph H. Greenberg*. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press.

O'Grady, William, Michael Dobrovolsky, and Mark Aronoff (eds., 1993). *Contemporary Linguistics: An introduction* (2nd ed.). New York: St. Martins. (Note: Chapter 8 in the second edition is more substantial than the corresponding chapter [9] in the third edition)

Baker, M. 2001. *The atoms of language. The mind's hidden rules of grammar*. Basic books.

Nichols, J. 1992. Linguistic Diversity in Space and Time. University of Chicago Press.

Smith, N. 1995. The mind of a savant.

Song, J.J. 2001. Linguistic Typology: Morphology and Syntax. Longman Linguistic Library.

**Requirements/Grading Policy:**

|                                    |     |
|------------------------------------|-----|
| Attendance and Class Participation | 10% |
| Homework                           | 20% |
| Short In-Class Reports             | 30% |
| Final Paper                        | 40% |

**Course Outline (subject to change)**

| <i>Week</i> | <i>Date</i> | <i>Topic and Readings</i>   | <i>Hw</i> |
|-------------|-------------|---|-----------|
| <b>I</b>    | Th 9/2      | Introduction(s). Student Questionnaire<br>Course Overview   |           |
| <b>II</b>   | Mon 9/6     | Labor Day: No Class   |           |
|             | Wed 9/8     | Introduction to Typology and Language Universals<br><i>Readings:</i> Whaley Chapters 1-3  |           |
|             | Th 9/9      | Genetic Language Classification<br>Determining a Language Sample<br><i>Readings:</i> Ch 8 (O’Grady et al) (optional, review of LING 100)<br>Comrie, B. “Languages of the World” |           |
| <b>III</b>  | Mon 9/13    | Possible versus Impossible Languages.<br><i>Readings:</i> Things no Language Does (post on Linguist List)   |           |
|             | Wed 9/15    | Brandeis Thursday<br>Epun: an example of an impossible language<br><i>Readings:</i> The mind of the savant (excerpt)  | Hw1       |
|             | Th 9/16     | No Class: Rosh Hashanah   |           |
| <b>IV</b>   | Mon 9/20    | Morphological Typology part 1<br><i>Readings:</i> Whaley Ch 7(optional, review of LING 100), Ch 8   |           |
|             | Wed 9/22    | Morphological Typology part 2   |           |
|             | Th 9/23     | A case study in polysynthesis: Mohawk<br><i>Readings:</i> Baking a Polysynthetic Language (From the Atoms of Language).   |           |
| <b>V</b>    | Mon 9/27    | Lexical Categories part 1<br><i>Readings:</i> Whaley Chapter 4  |           |
|             | Wed 9/29    | Lexical Categories part 2<br>Baker, M. Lexical Categories (Chapter 1)   |           |
|             | Th 9/30     | No Class  |           |
| <b>VI</b>   | Mon 10/4    | Discussion  | Hw 2      |
|             | Wed 10/6    | Discussion  |           |
|             | Th 10/7     | No Class  |           |
| <b>VII</b>  | Mon 10/11   | Discussion  |           |
|             | Wed 10/13   | Word Order Typology<br><i>Readings:</i> Whaley, Chapter 5   |           |

|             |           |  |      |
|-------------|-----------|--|------|
|             | Thu 10/14 | Word Order Typology<br><i>Readings: Whaley, Chapter 5</i>          |      |
| <b>VIII</b> | Mon 10/18 | Word Order Typology<br><i>Readings: Greenberg</i>                  |      |
|             | Wed 10/20 | Word Order Typology<br><i>Readings: Dryer</i>                      |      |
|             | Thu 10/21 | Word Order Typology<br><i>Readings: Dryer</i>                      |      |
| <b>IX</b>   | Mon 10/25 | Discussion   | Hw 3 |
|             | Tue 10/26 | Brandeis Wednesday: Discussion                                     |      |
|             | Wed 10/27 | Discussion   |      |
|             | Thu 10/28 | Case and Agreement<br><i>Readings: Whaley Chapter 9</i>            |      |
| <b>X</b>    | Mon 11/1  | Case and Agreement<br><i>Readings: Whaley Chapter 9</i>            |      |
|             | Wed 11/3  | Animacy and Gender<br><i>Readings: Whaley Chapter 10</i>           |      |
|             | Thu 11/4  | Tense and Aspect<br><i>Readings: Whaley Chapter 12</i>             |      |
| <b>XI</b>   | Mon 11/8  | Tense and Aspect<br><i>Readings: Whaley Chapter 12</i>             |      |
|             | Wed 11/10 | Mood and Negation<br><i>Readings: Whaley Chapter 13</i>            |      |
|             | Thu 11/11 | Discussion   | Hw 4 |
| <b>XII</b>  | Mon 11/15 | Discussion   |      |
|             | Wed 11/17 | Discussion   |      |
|             | Thu 11/18 | Valence Changing Operations<br><i>Readings: Whaley Chapter 11</i>  |      |
| <b>XIII</b> | Mon 11/22 | Valence Changing Operations<br><i>Readings: Whaley Chapter 11</i>  |      |
|             | Wed 11/24 | Brandeis Thursday: Questions<br><i>Readings: Whaley Chapter 14</i> |      |
|             | Thu 11/25 | No Class   |      |
| <b>XIV</b>  | Mon 11/29 | Questions<br><i>Readings: Whaley Chapter 14</i>                    |      |
|             | Wed 12/1  | Relative Clauses<br><i>Readings: Whaley Chapter 15 (Section 4)</i> |      |
|             | Thu 12/2  | Relative Clauses Continued<br><i>Readings TBA</i>                  |      |
| <b>XV</b>   | Mon 12/6  | Other types of subordination<br><i>Readings: Whaley Chapter 15</i> |      |
|             | Wed 12/8  | Other types of subordination<br><i>Readings: Whaley Chapter 15</i> |      |
|             | Thu 12/9  | Review   |      |
|             | Thu 12/16 | FINAL PAPER DUE  |      |

*If you are a student with a documented disability on record at Brandeis University and wish to have a reasonable accommodation made for you in this class, please see me immediately.*

*You are expected to be honest in all of your academic work. The University policy on academic honesty is distributed annually as section 5 of the Rights and Responsibilities handbook. Instances of alleged dishonesty will be forwarded to the Office of Campus Life for possible referral to the Student Judicial System. Potential sanctions include failure in the course and suspension from the University. If you have any questions about my expectations, please ask.*