UCLouvain

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2026

Typology and contrastive linguistics

5.00 credits	15.0 h	Q2

Teacher(s)	Degand Elisabeth ;Dupont Maïté (compensates Degand Elisabeth) ;
Language :	English > French-friendly
Place of the course	Louvain-la-Neuve
Prerequisites	Introduction to linguistics B2+ level in English
Main themes	The course deals with the comparative study of language with respect to language typology (and language universals), with comparative grammar, and with contrastive linguistics. The methodological aspects and the areas of research will be illustrated with examples from the Germanic and the Romance languages. Modern aspects of contrastive linguistics will be especially highlighted.
Learning outcomes	**At the end of this learning unit, the student is able to :** 1 Have developed theoretical and practical knowledge in comparative grammar and contrastive linguistics, especially with respect to the comparative study of Germanic and Romance languages, 2 Describe and compare (aspects of) the linguistic system of several languages or language varieties, 3 Apply the acquired theoretical knowledge on a certain subject in the field of contrastive linguistics.
Evaluation methods	Written essay with an oral presentation + specific tasks over the semester Generative artificial intelligence (AI) must be used responsibly and in accordance with the practices of academic and scientific integrity. Scientific integrity requires that sources be cited, and the use of AI must always be reported. The use of artificial intelligence for tasks where it is explicitly forbidden will be considered as cheating.
Teaching methods	The introduction to the course contains ex cathedra lectures, but it also requires the students' active participation when discussing the portfolio that will serve as the basis bibliography for the final essay.
Content	The (ex-cathedra) introduction gives an overview of the history of contrastive linguistics and linguistic typology as disciplines. The methodological aspects of language typology and contrastive linguistics will then be addressed in a research seminar format. The examples that will be discussed are mainly from the Germanic and Romance languages.
Inline resources	Moodle website
Bibliography	Disponible sur Moodle
Other infos	Portfolio
Faculty or entity in charge	ELAL

Programmes containing this learning unit (UE)

Program title	Acronym	Credits	Prerequisite	Learning outcomes
Master [120] in French and Romance Languages and Literatures : French as a Foreign Language	FLE2M	5		
Master [120] in Linguistics	LING2M	5		
Master [120] in Modern Languages and Literatures : German, Dutch and English	GERM2M	5		
Master [120] in Modern Languages and Literatures : General	ROGE2M	5		