

# Optimality Theory and Typology: Course Plan

1

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3

Class 2: [Aissen]

Harmonic Alignment: Markedness and Subject Selection.

*Readings:*

Aissen, J. (1999). *Markedness and subject choice in optimality theory. Natural Language and Linguistic Theory* 17(4): 673-711.  
<http://ling.ucsc.edu/~aissen/>

Classes 3-5: [Bresnan]

The Stochastic Generalization

*Readings:*

Bresnan, J., S. Dingare, and C. Manning. (2001). *Soft constraints mirror hard constraints: Voice and person in English and Lummi. On-line Proceedings of the LFG2001 Conference.* M. Butt and T. H. King, CSLI Publications. <http://csl-publications.stanford.edu/LFG/6/lfg01-toc.html>

Also recommended:

Boersma, P. and B. Hayes (2001). *Empirical tests of the Gradual Learning Algorithm. Linguistic Inquiry* 32(1): 45-86.

Dingare (2001). *The effect of feature hierarchies on frequencies of passivization in English.* MA thesis, Department of Linguistics, Stanford University, Stanford, CA. ROA-467-0901. <http://roa.rutgers.edu/view.php3?roa=467>

Class 1: [Bresnan]

Markedness and Optimality Theory. Case studies: pronominal inventories and pidgins.

*Readings:*

Bresnan, J. (2001). *The emergence of the unmarked pronoun. In Optimality-Theoretic Syntax, edited by G. Legendre, J. Grimshaw, and S. Vikner. The MIT Press, 113-142.* <http://www-llg.stanford.edu/bresnan/download.html>

Bresnan, J. (2000). *Pidgin genesis and Optimality Theory. In Processes of Language Contact: Case Studies from Australia and the Pacific, edited by Jeff Siegel. Montreal: Les Editions Fides, 145-173.* <http://www-ol.stanford.edu/bresnan/download.html>

2

4

Class 6–8: [Aissen]

Empirical Extensions of the Stochastic Theory

*Readings:*

*Aissen, J. (2000). Differential object marking: Iconicity vs. economy. <http://ling.ucsc.edu/~aissen>*

*Rosenbach, A. (to appear). Aspects of iconicity and economy in the choice between the s-genitive and the of-genitive in English. Determinants of grammatical variation in English.*

*B. Mondorf and G. Rohdenburg. Berlin, Mouton de Gruyter. <http://ang3-11.phil-fak.uni-duesseldorf.de/~ang3/Rosenbach/Rosenbach.PDF>*

5

Course Assignment for Assessment:

A short (ca. 600 word) essay will be assigned in the last week of the course, due on the final day of the class. The essay will be based on your choice from a set of questions that engage issues addressed in the readings and class meetings.

Contact:

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Bresnan: [bresnan@stanford.edu](mailto:bresnan@stanford.edu)

6