Name of the course: Differential Object Marking
Lecturer name: Olga Kagan

Course number:
Office hours: Semester A: Sunday 16:15-17:00; Semester B: Wednesday 15:00-16:00

Short course description (5-10 lines) with key words at the end of the paragraph
In this course, we will investigate the phenomenon of differential object marking (DOM). This is a phenomenon whereby, in a wide range of languages, the object of a verb may be either case-marked or caseless, depending on its properties. The particularly relevant characteristics include animacy, definiteness and specificity. Languages that exhibit DOM belong to different families and include Hebrew, Turkish, Spanish, Romanian, Mongolian and Udmurt, among many others. We will read articles that describe and analyze the phenomenon within individual languages, as well as ones that put forward a uniform cross-linguistic analysis.

Key words: case, semantics, animacy, specificity, definiteness

Course requirements:
Attendance required yes/no
Papers: 70%
Presentations: 30%

Reading the articles is obligatory. The grade for the papers (70% of the final grade) includes the seminar paper (60%) and short quizzes based on the reading material (10%).

Selected bibliography: