

53-514 Tense & Aspect: Contrast, Variation and Typology

[ENG-4, ENG-4a AA-V1ab, AA-V2ab, ENG-10, ENG-11, AA7, AA9, LAA8, LAA11, AA-W, AA-WB]

2st. Do 12-14

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Course Description:

The course centers around the concepts *tense*, i.e. the grammatical category that relates a situation to the time of an utterance, and *aspect*, i.e. the internal temporal property of a situation. Throughout the seminar, we will approach tense and aspect from various perspectives: we will look at differences across English varieties, compare the two genetically related languages English and German to find similarities and differences, and we will have a look at major patterns that are available in the languages of the world.

This is not a purely theoretical course, (although important terms and concepts need to be introduced and discussed in detail), but a substantial part of it is reserved for the analysis and inspection of written and spoken language. Multiple corpora that are freely available serve as the ground for our analyses.

Participants are expected to give a short presentation, to read the relevant literature (that will be provided) in advance, to actively participate in the discussions and in-class tasks and to submit a(n) (empirical) term paper at the end of the course.

Literature:

tba.

Course Requirements:

Regular attendance
Weekly reading assignments
Active participation in class
Short presentation
(Empirical) term Paper