This course looks at information structure [IS] from a cross-linguistic perspective. IS concerns the morphosyntactic and/or prosodic coding of the information status of the constituents of a sentence in terms of the context in which it occurs. We think of IS as an integral part of the grammar, which constrains syntactic structure and in some cases motivates it.

The course will proceed as follows:

Lecture 1: Basic notions of IS and the issue of configurationality
Lecture 2: IS in selected languages of North and South America
Lecture 3: IS in Austronesian languages
Lecture 4: IS in African languages
Lecture 5: Typological variation in IS