LIN 3460: Structure of Human Language

Class Meetings

section	097C	2891
day/period	T 2-3, R 3	T 4, R 4-5
location	AND 0032	MAT 0102

Instructors
Christopher Muntzner
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office hours   W periods 3-5; and by appointment
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Course Description
This course explores two branches of linguistics, morphology (word formation) and syntax (sentence structure) across the world's languages. We will analyze linguistic phenomena to uncover the similarities and differences across the world's languages. Course material focuses on the necessary tools for linguists to discover such latent patterns through vigorous problem-solving—finding patterns in extensive language data.

Objectives
• respect the similarities and differences of the worlds languages
• approach language from an empirical perspective (formal linguistics)
• attain competence in morphological and syntactic terminology
• develop problem-solving skills

Prerequisites
This course requires the successful completion of LIN 3010 (Introduction to Linguistics).

Course Materials
Available at Target Copy, 1412 W. University Ave.:
Crowley, Terry, John Lynch, Jeff Siegel, & Julie Piau. 1995. The Design of Language: An
          Introduction to Descriptive Linguistics. Auckland, New Zealand: Longman. (out of print)

Available at the Reitz Union bookstore:
Tallerman, Maggie. 2011. Understanding Syntax. Third Edition. London: Hodder Education.

All other necessary course materials (syllabus, handouts, homework problems, etc.) will be available on e-Learning via Canvas: https://lss.at.ufl.edu.

Requirements
Written course work consists of homework assignments, an ongoing language project and in-class exams.

There will be **six homework assignments** throughout the semester, with the lowest score dropped. Homework assignments are to be typed and printed prior to coming to class. Late work will not be accepted.

Throughout the semester you will be investigating the syntax and morphology of a particular language. This **language project** will be broken into **four parts**, which will be turned in on their respective due dates and graded separately. More information on this project will be forthcoming.

Finally, there will be **three exams** spaced throughout the semester. They are cumulative in the sense that the course material builds on itself. An understanding of the more complex concepts follows from understanding the foundational concepts.

Class participation. Class participation is essential to the success of this course. You are unlikely to succeed in this course without coming to class, paying attention, and participating. There will **six pop quizzes** throughout the semester. Like the homeworks, the lowest of the six will be dropped. You will not know in advance on what dates the quizzes will be taking place, therefore attending class will be pivotal to your success.

Grading
Your overall grade will be determined as follows:

homework	25%	(5% each, lowest dropped of 6)
language project	20%	(2% for part 1, and 6% each, parts 2, 3 & 4)
exams	45%	(15% each)
pop quizzes	10%	(2% each, lowest dropped of 6)

The following grading scale will be used to determine course grades:

		A	93.3-100	A-	90-93.2
B+	86.7-89.9	B	83.3-86.6	B-	80-83.2
C+	76.7-79.9	C	73.3-76.6	C-	70-73.2
D+	66.7-69.9	D	63.3-66.6	D-	60-63.2
		E	< 60		

The following website contains information on UF's current method for calculating GPAs: https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx.

Missed/Late Work
Late work or electronically submitted work will not be accepted. Late submissions/missed exams due to illness, religious obligations, unexpected emergencies, or other extenuating circumstances must be made before the exam date or assignment due date. If you are aware that you will be unable to complete any work on time, contact me prior to the due date. NO extra credit will be offered throughout this course.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities
Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

Schedule

wk	Tues.	Thr.	Core Topics	Readings	Assignments & Exams	Due Dates
1	8/22	8/24	introduction, the language system			
2	8/29	8/31	architecture of the grammar, introduction to morphology	DOL 1-10, 43-47 DOL 189-192		
3	9/5	9/7	morphological analysis, grammatical vs. lexical morphemes	DOL 230-232 DOL 252-271	Language Project 1	9/7
4	9/12	9/14	nominal morphological categories	DOL 192-213, 309-321 US 2.3 46-56, 6.3	Homework 1	9/14
5	9/19	9/21	verbal morphological categories	DOL 213-229, 322-329 US 2.2 39-46, 6.4		
6	9/26	9/28	morphological variation		Homework 2	9/28
7	10/3	10/5	allomorphy	DOL 272-304	Exam 1	10/5
8	10/10	10/12	morphological processes	DOL 232-252	Language Project 2	10/12
9	10/17	10/19	introduction to syntax, word classes	DOL 10-18 US 1	Homework 3	10/19
10	10/24	10/26	clause and clause types, dependent clauses	US 2, 3, 4	Homework 4	10/26
11	10/31	11/2	complements vs. adjuncts, basic word order, phrase structure	US 2, 3, 4	Language Project 3	11/2
12	11/7	11/9	constituent structure trees, phrase structure: cross-linguistic variation	US 6.1, 6.2 DOL 18-37	Exam 2	11/9
13	11/14	11/16	constituency; syntactic operations	US 7, 8	Homework 5	11/16
14	11/21		thanksgiving break		Homework 6	11/21
15	11/28	11/30	review; exam		Exam 3	11/30
16	12/5		Language Project 4 by 5pm		Language Project 4	12/5

DOL = Design of Language   US = Understanding Syntax