LIN 3460: Structure of Human Language

Class Meetings

Section	097C	2891
Day/Period	MWF 3	MWF 4
Location	AND 0019	AND 0021

Facilitators

Instructor	Robert Ozier Smith
Office	TUR B132
Hours	MWF 6 or by appointment
Email	r.oziersmith@ufl.edu

Grader	Raphael O. Iyamu
Email	r.iyamu@ufl.edu

Course Description and Prerequisites

This course investigates word formation (morphology) and sentence structure (syntax) in the world's languages. We will look at variation within these domains across the world's languages. The course material focuses on the vocabulary and tools linguists use to discover underlying patterns, develop hypotheses, and defend arguments. This course requires successful completion of LIN 3010 (Introduction to Linguistics).

Objectives

- Appreciate the similarities and differences of the world's languages
- Approach language from an empirical perspective
- Attain competence in morphological and syntactic terminology
- Develop problem-solving skills

Course Materials

Available on e-Learning via Canvas:

Crowley, Terry, John Lynch, & Julie Piau. 1995. *The design of language: An introduction to descriptive linguistics*. Auckland, NZ: Longman.

Available at the Reitz Union bookstore:

Tallerman, Maggie. 2011. *Understanding syntax*, 3rd ed. London: Hodder Education.

NB: If you acquire a copy of a previous edition of the required course textbook, it is your responsibility to check that activities and topics covered reflect those covered in the third edition. Any omitted or incorrectly submitted homework is the responsibility of the student.

All other material is available on e-Learning via Canvas.

Requirements

Written course work consists of homework assignments, an ongoing language project, in-class exams, pop quizzes, and a research participation requirement.

There will be six **homework** assignments this semester. Homework assignments are to be typed and submitted through Canvas. Neither hard copy work nor late work will be accepted without prior approval. You may discuss homework with other students in the class, but you must write up your homework independently. If you collaborate with other members of the class, include their names along with your own when submitting homework. _NB_: Collaboration does _not_ license a co-authored homework assignment!

During this semester, you will investigate the morphology and syntax of a particular language. This l**anguage project** is broken into four parts, with each part submitted on its respective due date and graded independently. Information on the project will be forthcoming.

There will be three **exams**. They are cumulative in that understanding more complex concepts results from understanding fundamental concepts. Exams will consist of data analysis, short answer questions, and vocabulary identification.

In lieu of an attendance or participation grade, there will be seven **pop quizzes** throughout the semester, with the lowest grade dropped.

Requirements for the research participation credit will be available on Canvas and discussed in class.

Class Participation and Attendance

There is no formal attendance policy for this course. With that in mind, you are unlikely to do well in this course without attending regularly and participating. Course attendance and participation is therefore evaluated by pop quizzes, discussed above.

Grading

Your overall grade is determined as follows:

Exams	35%
Homework	30%
Language project	25%
Pop Quizzes	5%
Research participation	5%

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		

Missed/late Work

As previously noted, late work will not be accepted without prior approval. Acceptable reasons for late submissions/missed exams include illness, family emergencies, special curricular activities (e.g. field trips, professional conferences, etc.), severe weather conditions, and participation in official UF activities. Absences from class for court-imposed legal obligations (e.g. jury duty) are also acceptable.

University Honesty Policy

Academic misconduct, including but not limited to cheating and plagiarism, will not be tolerated. It may result in disciplinary action and failure in the course. The University has an Honor Code which reads as follows: "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity." The Honor Code is accessible online at http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Students requiring classroom accomodations must first register online with the Dean of Students Office: http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accomodation.

Evaluations

"Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/."

Schedule

<u>NB</u>:   The course schedule is subject to change, given our progress with the material. Any changes to the course schedule will be relayed to students via email and through Canvas. Under readings, *DOL* refers to *The design of language*, and *US* refers to *Understanding syntax*.

	Week	Topic	Readings	Due Dates	Notes
1	Aug. 19, 21, 23	Introduction	*DOL* Ch. 1 (1—10) *US* 1.2.2		No class Monday (08/19)

2	Aug. 26, 28, 30	Grammatical, Lexical Morphology	*DOL* Ch. 4 (189—192), Ch. 5 (230—232)		
3	Sept. 2, 4, 6	Morphological Analysis	*DOL* Ch. 5 (252—271)	LP 1 (09/06)	No class Monday (09/02) Labor Day
4	Sept. 9, 11, 13	Nominal morphological categories	*DOL* Ch. 4 (192—213), Ch. 7 (309—321), *US* 2.3 (46—56), 6.3	HW 1 (09/13)	
5	Sept. 16, 18, 20	Verbal morphological categories	*DOL* Ch. 4 (213—229), Ch. 7 (322—329) *US* 2.2 (39—46), 6.4		
6	Sept 23, 25, 27	Morphological variation		HW 2 (09/27)	
7	Sept. 30; Oct. 2, 4	Allomorphy	*DOL* Ch. 6 (272—304)	EXAM 1 (10/02)	No class Friday (10/04) Homecoming
8	Oct. 7, 9, 11	Morphological processes	*DOL* Ch. 5 (232—252)	HW 3 (10/11)	
9	Oct. 14, 16, 18	Introduction to syntax	*DOL* Ch. 1 (10—18) *US* Ch. 1, 2, 3	LP 2 (10/18)	
10	Oct. 21, 23, 25	Heads and dependents	*US* Ch. 4	HW 4 (10/25)	
11	Oct. 28, 30; Nov. 1	Complements vs. adjuncts, basic word order		EXAM 2 (10/30)	
12	Nov. 4, 6, 8	Phrase structure	*US* 6.1—6.2 *DOL* Ch. 1 (18—37)	HW 5 (11/08)	
13	Nov. 11, 13, 15	Constituency	*US* Ch. 5	LP 3 (11/15)	No class Monday (11/11) Veterans Day
14	Nov. 18, 20, 22	Syntactic operations	*US* Ch. 7, 8	HW 6 (11/22)	
15	Nov. 25, 27, 29	Syntactic operations, cont.			No class Wed., Fri. (11/27, 29) Thanksgiving

| 16 | Dec. 2, 4, 6 | Syntactic operations, cont. | | EXAM 3 (12/04) | No class Friday (12/6) Reading day |
| 17 | Dec. 9, 11, 13 | N/A | | LP 4 (12/11) | No class |