

Structure of Human Language
LIN 3460
Fall 2025 Syllabus
Time: Period 4 10:40a-11:30a
Room: Anderson 134

Instructors: Alexandrine Dunlap & Nathan Dwyer
Email: a.dunlap@ufl.edu & ndwyer@ufl.edu
Office: Turlington 4106
Office Hours: TBD

Course Description: This course focuses on the morphological and syntactic structure of human language. By taking a more in-depth look at morphology and syntax than is taken in LIN3010, the fundamental concepts will be discussed in the context of human language in general, with illustrations from individual languages forming the basis of the data. This course also provides the foundation so students can go on to take LIN4400 (Introduction to Morphology) and LIN4500 (Introduction to Syntax).

Course Objectives: The goal of the course is to familiarize students with the basics of morphology and syntax. This includes discussion of terminology, relevant theoretical issues and how morphology and syntax work in various languages. Students will gain an understanding of different types of morphology, allomorphy, morphological processes, basic clause structure, constituents and more. This should prepare students well to go on and take more in-depth courses in both morphology and syntax.

Course Prerequisites: LIN3010 (Introduction to Linguistics)

Course Grading:

The final grade for the course will come from the following assignments.

Take-Home Exams: 2 x 15% = 30%

Homework: 5 x 7% = 35%

Participation: 6%

Choosing LP/Sources: 5%

Language Project: 3 x 8% = 24%

Take-Home Exams: The course will have 2 take-home exams. These will be given at scheduled times throughout the semester. Because the exams are take-home they are open note, however students will have a limited amount of time (~2 days) to complete them. The exams will be submitted through Canvas. Students should not consult with other students when completing the exams. The first exam will be a midterm exam and the second exam will be a final exam, however it will not be cumulative in any major way and will not be given in finals week.

Homework: There will be five homework assignments distributed throughout the course. These will be submitted through Canvas. Students are welcome to discuss the homework with other classmates but should write up their answers entirely on their own.

Participation: This serves as an incentive for you to come to class and engage with the material. You can earn points toward your participation grade throughout the semester through in class activities such as problem sets, sharing your ideas, and participating in class discussions. A portion of this is also related to your presentations on the language project discussed below.

Choosing LP: As part of the course, students will investigate the morphology and syntax of a particular language. There will be a 5-point assignment to assist students in choosing which language they will work on. More details will be provided in class.

Researching LP: Once the LP has been chosen, students will compile a list of sources they can use to write the subsequent essays. This assignment is worth 5 points.

Language Project: For the language project, each student will be investigating the morphology and syntax of a particular language. The language project will be divided into 3 parts. These assignments will also be turned in via Canvas. Students will also give a brief presentation sharing what they have learned.

Extra Credit: Students who wish to do so may increase their score on the midterm (or any one homework of your choice) by 2 (out of 100) by completing 2 hours of participation in experiments in the departments of Linguistics, Spanish & Portuguese, and Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences. For a list of studies that qualify, see the SONA website <https://ufl-slhs.sona-systems.com/>. If you choose not to participate or do not qualify for any of the studies, you can receive the same amount of extra credit by means of an alternative assignment. Details will be made available by the instructors.

Grading Scale: The grading scale is taken from a typical UF scale.

A: 93-100 A-: 90-93

B+: 87-90 B: 83-87 B-: 80-83

C+: 77-80 C: 73-77 C-: 70-73

D+: 67-70 D: 63-67 D-: 60-63

E: less than 60

Note: The numbers overlap here in the sense that, for example, the lower range of an A is 93 and the upper range of A- is also 93. Obviously, if a student's grade is right on a dividing line they will receive the higher grade. In other words, if a student had 93.0 exactly, they would get an A, not an A-.

Course Materials: There is no textbook that is required for this class.

Course Policies:

Attendance: Attendance will only be taken during approximately the first week of class. It will not count as part of the course grade.

Late Work: All assignments should be turned in by the due date and time specified unless there is a legitimate reason for a late submission. Each student is granted one pass per semester, where they may submit an assignment late without penalty a week past the original deadline.

Late assignments will receive a 10% deduction from the assignment grade and will not be accepted more than one week after the due date. Exams turned in late will receive a 25% deduction from the exam score and will not be accepted 24 hours past the deadline.

Course Schedule:

Week	Topic	Assignments Due
Week 1: 8/22	Intro, basics of morphology	
Week 2: 8/25 8/27 8/29	Morphological Analysis 1	Choose LP
Week 3: 9/3 9/5	Morphological Analysis 2	Research LP
Week 4: 9/8 9/10 9/12	Nominal Morphology	HW 1
Week 5: 9/15 9/17 9/19	Verbal Morphology	HW 2
Week 6: 9/22 9/24 9/26	Derivational Morphology	LP 1
Week 7: 9/29 10/1 10/3	Morphological Processes & Variation	
Week 8: 10/6 10/8 10/10	Morphology Review	Exam 1
Week 9: 10/13 10/15	Allomorphy	LP2
Week 10: 10/20 10/22 10/24	Basics of Syntax	HW3
Week 11: 10/27 10/29 10/31	Phrase Structure Rules	
Week 12: 11/3 11/5 11/7	Syntax Trees & Constituents	LP3
Week 13: 11/10 11/12 11/14	Syntactic Operations	HW4
Week 14: 11/17 11/19 11/21	Theory & Syntax Spotlight	HW5
Week 15: Holiday		
Week 16: 12/1 12/3	Review	
Week 17: No Class	Finals Week	

COVID-19 Policy: This class will follow University of Florida policy on matters related to COVID-19.

AI Writing Tools: In order to achieve the objectives of this course, the use of artificial intelligence tools or language models is prohibited. Students are expected to rely solely on their own intellectual efforts and creativity for all homeworks and papers in this course. Any questions or exceptions should be discussed with the instructor.

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.

Course Evaluation: 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.ua.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.bluer.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.ua.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

Honor Code: UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The Honor Code (<https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

Academic Perspectives: Students are encouraged to employ critical thinking and to rely on data and verifiable sources to interrogate all assigned reads and subject matter in this course as a way of determining whether they agree with their classmates and/or their instructor. No lesson is intended to espouse, promote, advance, inculcate, or compel a particular feeling, perception, viewpoint or belief.

Class Recording: Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor.

A “class lecture” is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or lecturer during a class session.

Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To “publish” means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code."

Recording of Class Sessions: Our class sessions may be audio visually recorded. Students who participate with their camera engaged or utilize a profile image are agreeing to have their video or image recorded. If you are unwilling to consent to have your profile or video image recorded, be sure to keep your camera off and do not use a profile image. Likewise, students who un-mute during class and participate orally are agreeing to have their voices recorded. If you are not willing to consent to have your voice recorded during class, you will need to keep your mute button activated and communicate exclusively using the "chat" feature, which allows students to

type questions and comments live. The chat will not be recorded or shared. As in all courses, unauthorized recording and unauthorized sharing of recorded materials is prohibited.

Campus Resources:

Health and Wellness

U Matter, We Care: If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu, 352-392-1575, or visit [U Matter, We Care website](#) to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.

Counseling and Wellness Center: [Visit the Counseling and Wellness Center website](#) or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.

Student Health Care Center: Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or [visit the Student Health Care Center website](#).

University Police Department: [Visit UF Police Department website](#) or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).

UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center: For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; [Visit the UF Health Emergency Room and Trauma Center website](#).

GatorWell Health Promotion Services: For prevention services focused on optimal wellbeing, including Wellness Coaching for Academic Success, [visit the GatorWell website](#) or call 352-273-4450.

Academic Resources

E-learning technical support: Contact the UF Computing Help Desk at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at helpdesk@ufl.edu.

Career Connections Center: Reitz Union Suite 1300, 352-392-1601. Career assistance and counseling services.

Library Support: Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.

Teaching Center: Broward Hall, 352-392-2010 or to make an appointment 352- 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring.

Writing Studio: 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.

Student Complaints On-Campus: [Visit the Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code webpage](#) for more information.

On-Line Students Complaints: [View the Distance Learning Student Complaint Process](#).