

# Structure of Human Language

LIN3460

Spring 2021 Syllabus

Time: MWF 5<sup>th</sup> Period (11:45 AM – 12:35 PM)

Room: Section 18AB – MAT 0116, Section 19AB - Zoom

Instructor: Caleb Ewing

Email: [cewing@ufl.edu](mailto:cewing@ufl.edu)

Office: Turlington B132

Office Hours: All office hours will be virtual on Zoom. Time: W/F 3:00 PM – 4:30 PM or by appointment.

Teaching Assistant: Alexandrine Dunlap

Email: [a.dunlap@ufl.edu](mailto:a.dunlap@ufl.edu)

**COVID-19 Policies:** In accordance with UF guidelines, any student attending the in-person section of the course **must** wear a mask at all times and **must** practice physical distancing (6 feet from others). The instructor will also be abiding by these policies. If a student is feeling ill, they should not come to class. All students will be provided with the Zoom link so that if a student is feeling ill, they can simply join on Zoom.

**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:**  $2 \times 15\% = 30\%$

**Homework:**  $6 \times 7\% = 42\%$

**Choosing LP:** 4%

**Language Project:**  $3 \times 8\% = 24\%$

**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 thus 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 six 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.

**Choosing LP:** As part of the course, students will investigate the morphology and syntax of a particular language. There will be a 10-point assignment to assist students in choosing which language they will work on. More details will be provided in class.

**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.

**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. The Tallerman book Understanding Syntax is listed as recommended. If you are someone who likes having a book to follow along with, you might find the Tallerman book very useful. However, it is not required for the 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. Late assignments (that have not been approved to be late) will receive a 10% deduction from the assignment grade. Any assignment that has not been turned in will receive a 0.

**COVID-19:** We are all living through an unprecedented time in history. There are a myriad of factors causing all of us more stress and anxiety right now. As instructors, it is imperative that we be flexible, understanding, and accommodating in these times. Because of this, please feel free to reach out if you are struggling and feel like you need certain accommodations. We can work something out. I am available to talk with anyone and help in any way I can. If you need professional help in any way, you can contact the Counseling and Wellness center at UF: <https://counseling.ufl.edu/>. They can help you or point you to someone who can. Again, know that we are all in this together and we are here to support each other.

**Course Schedule:**

<b>Week</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Assignments Due</b>
Week 1: 1/11-1/15	Intro, basics of morphology, terminology	
Week 2: 1/18-1/22 <b>1/18 Martin Luther King Jr. Day</b>	Morphological analysis	Choosing LP
Week 3: 1/25-1/29	Nominal morphology	HW 1
Week 4: 2/1-2/5	Verbal morphology	LP 1
Week 5: 2/8-2/12	Derivational morphology	HW 2
Week 6: 2/15-2/19	Morphological variation	
Week 7: 2/22-2/26	Morphological processes	<b>Exam 1</b>
Week 8: 3/1-3/5	Allomorphy	LP 2
Week 9: 3/8-3/12	Basics of syntax, lexical categories	HW 3
Week 10: 3/15-3/19	Basic phrase structure, heads/dependents	

Week 11: 3/22-3/26	Basic clause structure, types of clauses	HW 4
Week 12: 3/29-4/2	Complements vs. adjuncts, constituents	LP 3
Week 13: 4/5-4/9	Syntactic trees and structure	HW 5
Week 14: 4/12-4/16	Syntactic operations	HW 6
Week 15: 4/19-4/21	Agreement, syntactic features	<b>Exam 2</b>
Week 16: 4/26-4/30	Finals Week – No Class	

**Students with Disabilities:** Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, [www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/](http://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.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/>.

**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.

**Recording of Class Sessions:** Our class sessions will 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.