LIN 3460: Structure of Human Language
MWF 4
AND 13

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Course Description

This course investigates word formation (morphology) and sentence structure (syntax) in the world's languages. We will look at the similarities and differences among languages, in particular, the kinds of rules, patterns, and linguistic phenomena that they share. The course material focuses on the vocabulary and tools that linguists use to discover such underlying patterns and the course work emphasizes problem-solving — the ability to see such patterns in a wide range of language data.

Objectives

- approach language as an object of empirical study
- appreciate the similarities and differences among the world's languages
- develop problem solving skills
- gain competence in the descriptive vocabulary of morphology and syntax

Prerequisites

The prerequisite for this class is LIN 3010 (Introduction to Linguistics).

Course Materials

Available from Target Copy, 1412 W. University Ave.:

- Crowley, Terry, John Lynch, Jeff Siegel, and 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.

Other course materials (extra readings, handouts, homework assignments, syllabus, etc.) will be available on Sakai: http://lss.at.ufl.edu.

Requirements

The written work for the course consists of in-class exercises, regular homework problems, an on-going language project, and three exams.

Homework | There will be 6 homework assignments throughout the semester. The lowest score will be dropped. You should work through and write up all the problems for the day they are due. We will go over most of the problems in class, allowing you to check your progress and understanding. Homework assignments must be typed and printed out. As we will discuss them in class on the day they are due, anything written by hand on your assignments, except for special symbols or diagrams, will be regarded as your in-class notes, not part of your answers. For the same reason, late homework will not be accepted. Homework assignments will be graded on a 0-100 point scale.

Language Project | Throughout the semester you will be investigating the morphology and syntax of a language of your choosing. You should choose a language that you are interested in and can find reasonable resources for. The language project will consist of 4 individual assignments, which should be turned in on the due dates respectively and will be graded separately.

The Language Project assignments will be graded on the following scale:

A+	100	Stunning
A	95	Excellent work that is carefully presented
A–	90	
B	85	Good work that is adequately presented
B–	80	
C	75	Satisfactory
C–	70	Fair work that has significant problems, is very incomplete, or poorly presented; Significant improvement is required
F	50	Unsatisfactory; Inadequate work
	0	Missing work

Work handed in for credit (homework assignments and language project assignments) must be typed and printed out neatly. Staple multiple sheets together and put your name on them. Any special symbols or diagrams may be done by hand. Please write in complete sentences and complete thoughts. I will not accept late or un-typed work without a documented excuse.

You may discuss the homework assignments with other members of this class section only. You may not consult outside sources, except where the problem states that you may/should do so. You must write up your solutions entirely on your own, without help, in accordance with the University of Florida Honor Code and the academic honesty guidelines. The full policy is available at http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/honorcodes/honorcode.php. Copying or sharing any part of your homework assignments in any way, shape, or form is strictly prohibited. For computer work, this includes, but is not limited to, using the same file/document as someone else, using a modified

file/document, or copying information between files/documents. No written work may be a joint effort in any way unless explicitly permitted.

Class Participation | Class participation is essential to the success of this course. You are unlikely to succeed without coming to class, paying attention, and participating. The material on the exams will come from the texts and class, which may not coincide. There will be in-class individual or group exercises. The goal of these exercises is to check that you are following the class discussion and that you understand basic concepts. There will also be 12 random quizzes (one point each, with the lowest two being dropped) throughout the semester to check participation.

Exams | There will be three exams spaced throughout the semester. They are not cumulative except to the extent that the material builds on itself and you cannot control the more complex concepts without first getting the more basic ones. There is no cumulative final exam during exam week.

Overall Grade | The final grade will be determined as follows:

- homework problems   25% (5% each)
- language project   20% (2% X 1 + 6% X 3)
- class participation   10%
- exams   45% (15% each)

The following grading scale will be used for course grades:

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

UF grade point averages are currently calculated based on the following: https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx.

Missed/Late Work | You should assume that late work or electronically submitted work will not be accepted. All requests for exceptions due to illness, religious obligations, unexpected emergencies, or other extenuating circumstances must be made before the exam date or assignment due date. If you know that you will be unable to complete any work on time, contact the instructor to make arrangements prior to the due date.

There will be no extra credit work to help you raise your grade; please do not ask. The best strategy is to keep up with the course and do the best work you are capable of on the assigned work.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities | Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office: http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student with instructions on how to proceed in obtaining appropriate accommodations.

Schedule

The following schedule is an estimate of the course's progress, with readings for the given week and approximate dates of the assignments and exams.

DOL | *Design of Language*   US | *Understanding Syntax*

WEEK	DATES	CORE TOPICS	READINGS, ASSIGNMENTS, AND EXAMS
1	January 7, 9	introduction the language system architecture of the grammar	DOL ch. 1 (1-10, 43-47)
2	January 12, 14, 16	introduction to morphology morphological analysis	**Lg. Project 1 (Jan. 16)** DOL ch. 4 (189-192) DOL ch. 5 (230-232)
3	January 19, 21, 23	grammatical vs. lexical morphemes MLK Jr. Day (Jan. 19)	**HW 1 (Jan. 23)** DOL ch. 5 (252-271)
4	January 26, 28, 30	nominal morphological categories	DOL ch. 4 (192-213) DOL ch. 7 (309-321) US 2.3 (46-56), 6.3
5	February 2, 4, 6	verbal morphological categories	**HW 2 (Feb. 6)** DOL ch. 4 (213-229) DOL ch. 7 (322-329) US 2.2 (39-46), US 6.4
6	February 9, 11, 13	morphological variation	**EXAM 1 (Feb. 13)**
7	February 16, 18, 20	allomorphy morphological processes	**Lg. Project 2 (Feb. 20)** DOL ch. 6 (272-304) DOL ch. 5 (232-252)
8	February 23, 25, 27	introduction to syntax word classes	**HW 3 (Feb. 27)** DOL ch. 1 (10-18) US ch. 1, ch. 2
9	March 2, 4, 6	Spring Break	
10	March 9, 11, 13	clauses and clause types dependent clauses	**HW 4 (March 13)** US ch. 3
11	March 16, 18, 20	heads and dependents	**EXAM 2 (March 20)** US ch. 4
12	March 23, 25, 27	complements vs. adjuncts basic word order	**Lg. Project 3 (March 27)** US ch. 4
13	March 30 April 1, 3	phrase structure constituent structure trees phrase structure: cross-linguistic variation	**HW 5 (April 3)** US 6.1-6.2 DOL ch. 1 (23-37) DOL ch. 1 (18-23)

14	April 6, 8, 10	constituency	**Lg. Project 4 (April 10)** US ch. 5
15	April 13, 15, 17	syntactic operations	**HW 6 (April 17)** US ch. 7, ch. 8
16	April 20, 22	review final	**EXAM 3 (April 22)**