

LIN 3460: Structure of Human Language

Sec 1E58 Period 2: 8:30 A.M. – 9:20 A.M. AND 0032
Sec 18AB Period 3: 9:35 A.M. – 10:25 A.M. AND 0101

Instructor Robert Ozier Smith
Office Turlington B132
Office Hours MWF 10:40 A.M. – 11:30 A.M.; and by appointment
E-mail r.oziersmith@ufl.edu

Grader Yanmin Bao
E-mail ybao@ufl.edu

Course Description, Objectives

This course investigates word formation (morphology) and sentence structure (syntax) in the world's languages. We will focus on the kinds of rules, patterns, and linguistic phenomena languages share. In addition, we will rely on the vocabulary and tools that linguists use to discover those underlying patterns, develop the problem-solving skills to qualify those patterns, and develop the writing skills needed to then disseminate those findings.

Prerequisite

- LIN 3010: Introduction to Linguistics

Course Materials

Course materials will be available on Canvas (via elearning.ufl.edu).

Course Requirements and Course Grading

The written work for this course consists of homework assignments, an ongoing language project, a write-up of your experience participating in a linguistics event/opportunity offered by the department, 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 language. This **language project** will consist of 4 individual assignments, which will be turned in on their

respective due dates and graded separately. More information on this project will be forthcoming.

Participation in department life is essential in any academic field. Students are therefore to attend an event hosted by the UF Department of Linguistics (or related department) or to participate in a research study. Expectations and opportunities will be discussed in greater detail in class.

Finally, there will be four **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.

The **final grade** is determined as follows:

Homework	25%
Language Project	25%
Participation in Department Life	10%
Exams	40%

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

Academic Honesty

While I strongly encourage collaboration as we work through these concepts, you are ultimately responsible for your work. If you collaborate with another student or students, please indicate this on your assignment. While you may collaborate on the content of an assignment, each group member is responsible for writing up his/her own findings. Follow the University of Florida Honor Code and the academic honesty guidelines (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/honorcodes/honorcode.php>).

Disability Accommodations

Students requesting classroom accommodations 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.

Course Schedule

The following schedule is subject to change, depending on the speed of our progress.

WEEK	DATES	CORE TOPICS	ASSIGNMENTS, AND EXAMS
1	January 4, 6	Foundational concepts, scientific argumentation	
2	January 9, 11, 13	Introduction to morphology	LP 1
3	January 16, 18, 20	Morphological analysis NO CLASS: Jan. 16	
4	January 23, 25, 27	Nominal morphological categories	HW 1
5	Jan. 30 – Feb. 3	Verbal morphological categories	EXAM 1
6	February 6, 8, 10	Morphological variation	HW 2
7	February 13, 15, 17	Allomorphy	LP 2
8	Feb. 20, 22, 24	Morphological processes	HW 3
9	Feb. 27 – Mar. 3	Introduction to syntax word classes clauses and clause types dependent clauses	EXAM 2
10	Mar. 6 – Mar. 10	NO CLASS: Spring Break	
11	Mar. 13, 15, 17	Heads and dependents	HW 4
12	Mar. 20, 22, 24	Complements vs. adjuncts basic word order	LP 3
13	Mar. 27, 29, 31	Phrase structure, cross-linguistic variation	EXAM 3
14	Apr. 3, 5, 7	Constituency	HW 5
15	Apr. 10, 12, 14	Syntactic operations	HW 6
16	Apr. 17, 19	Review, final	EXAM 4
17	Apr. 26		LP 4 (by 4 P.M.)