

**LIN 3460: Structure of Human Language****Class Meetings**

section	1E58	18AB
day/period	MWF 5	MWF 6
location	AND 0032	AND 0032

**Instructors**

*Christopher Muntzner*

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**Course Description**

This course explores two branches of linguistics, morphology (word formation) and syntax (sentence structure) across the world's languages. We will analyze linguistic phenomena to uncover the similarities and differences across the world's languages. Course material focuses on the necessary tools for linguists to discover such latent patterns through vigorous problem-solving—finding patterns in extensive language data.

**Objectives**

- respect the similarities and differences of the world's languages
- approach language from an empirical perspective (formal linguistics)
- attain competence in morphological and syntactic terminology
- develop problem-solving skills

**Prerequisites**

This course requires the successful completion of LIN 3010 (Introduction to Linguistics).

**Course Materials**

*Available at Target Copy, 1412 W. University Ave.:*

Crowley, Terry, John Lynch, Jeff Siegel, & 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.

All other necessary course materials (syllabus, handouts, homework problems, etc.) will be available on e-Learning via Canvas: <https://lss.at.ufl.edu>.

**Requirements**

Written course work will consist of homework assignments, an ongoing language project, in-class exams and pop quizzes.

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 particular language. This **language project** will be broken into **four parts**, which will be turned in on their respective due dates and graded separately. More information on this project will be forthcoming.

Finally, there will be **three 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.

There will **six pop quizzes** throughout the semester, with the lowest score dropped. You will not know in advance on what dates the quizzes will be taking place, therefore attending class will be pivotal to your success. Quizzes are multiple choice; make-up quizzes are short answer.

#### *Attendance*

You are unlikely to succeed in this course without coming to class, paying attention, and participating. Attendance will be taken during every class. **Each day earns 2-points** (1-point for tardiness) with a possible **80-points total**. Should you have an excused absence, attendance points for that day will not count for/against you. Attendance will not be taken during add/drop week. See the following website for the Spring 2018 calendar: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/Pages/calendar1718.pdf>.

#### **Grading**

*Your overall grade will be determined as follows:*

homework	25%	(5% each, lowest dropped of 6)
language project	20%	(2% for part 1, and 6% each for parts 2, 3 & 4)
exams	45%	(15% each)
pop quizzes	5%	(1% each, lowest dropped of 6)
attendance	5%	(2pts per day; 80pts total)

*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		

The following website contains information on UF's current method for calculating GPAs: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>.

#### *Missed/Late Work*

Late work or electronically submitted work will not be accepted. Late submissions/missed exams due to illness, religious obligations, unexpected emergencies, or other extenuating circumstances must be made before the exam date or assignment due date. If you are aware that you will be unable to complete any work on time, contact me prior to the due date. Work beyond a week late will not be accepted. NO extra credit will be offered throughout this course.

### *Accommodations for 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.

### Schedule

<i>wk</i>	<b>M</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>Core Topics</b>	<b>Readings</b>	<b>Due Dates</b>	
1	1/8	1/10	1/12	introduction; the language system			
2	1/15	1/17	1/19	artitecture of the grammar; introduction to morphology	DOL: ch.1 (1-10, 43-47); DOL: ch.4 (189-192); DOL: ch.5 (230-232)		
3	1/22	1/24	1/26	morphological analysis; lexical vs. grammatical morphemes	DOL: ch.5 (252-271)	LP1	1/26
4	1/29	1/31	2/2	nominal morphological categories	DOL: ch.4 (192-213); DOL: ch.7 (309-321); US: 2.3 (46-56), 6.3	HW1	2/2
5	2/5	2/7	2/9	verbal morphologoical categories	DOL: ch.4 (213-229); DOL: ch.7 (322-329); US: 2.2 (39-46), 6.4		
6	2/12	2/14	2/16	morphological variation		HW2	2/16
7	2/19	2/21	2/23	allomorphy	DOL: ch.6	EX1	2/23
8	2/26	2/28	3/2	morphological processess	DOL: ch.5 (232-252)	LP2	3/2
9	3/5	3/7	3/9	<i>spring break</i>			
10	3/12	3/14	3/16	introduction to syntax; word classes	DOL: ch.1 (10-18); US: ch.1, ch.2	HW3	3/16
11	3/19	3/21	3/23	clauses and clause types; dependent clauses	US: ch.3	HW4	3/23
12	3/26	3/28	3/30	heads and dependents	US: ch.4	LP3	3/30
13	4/2	4/4	4/6	complements vs. adjunstcs; basic word order; phrase structure	DOL: ch.1 (23-37); US: ch.4; US: 6.1-6.2	EX2	4/6
14	4/9	4/11	4/13	constituent structure trees phrase structure: cross-linguistically		HW5	4/13
15	4/16	4/18	4/20	constituency; syntactic operations	DOL: ch.1 (18-23); US: ch.5, ch.7, ch.8	HW6	4/20
16	4/23	4/25	4/27	review; final		LP4, EX3	4/27

DOL = Design of Language; US = Understanding Syntax

Attendance will not be taken on days that are in *red*.