LIN 3460-2891
**Structure of Human Language**
MWF 5th period (11:45-12:35)
AND 34

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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. Both will prepare the student for more advanced work in linguistics.

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

**Prerequisites**
LIN 3010 (Introduction to Linguistics).

**Course Materials**
There are two texts for the course:

- 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 University Target copy, 1412 West University Avenue. Tel 376-3826).
- Tallerman, Maggie. 2011. *Understanding Syntax.* Third edition. New York, NY: Oxford University Press (A Hodder Arnold Publication) Available at the Reitz Union bookstore, Tel. 392-0194.

Great resource for geographic, statistic, or genetic information about languages: www.ethnologue.com.

**Course Requirements**
The written work for the course consists of regular homework sets, three exams, and a language project.

*Homework*. There will be six homework assignments throughout the semester and are due in class on the date stated on the syllabus. We will typically discuss part of the homework in class, so late homework cannot be accepted. If you are not present in class when homeworks are handed back, it is your responsibility to get your work from the instructor.

Homeworks are to be typed and printed out neatly. Staple multiple sheets together and put your name on it. Any special symbols or diagrams may be done by hand. Please write in complete sentences and complete thoughts. I will not grade late homeworks without a documented excuse. Please let me know ahead of time if there are extenuating circumstances that will force you to turn in late work.

You are encouraged to discuss homework with other members of this class section, but you must write them up separately, completely on your own, in accordance with the University of Florida Honor Code and the academic honesty guidelines. The full policy is available at http://www.chem.ufl.edu/~itl/honor.html. And while I encourage you not to consult outside textual resources, if you do use such sources, they should be cited. Give credit where it is due.

Each homework will be graded on the following scale:

6     Perfect work
5.5   Excellent work that is almost completely accurate and carefully presented
5     Good work that is mostly accurate and adequately presented (1 or 2 major mistakes)
4.5   Overall fair quality, 2 or 3 major mistakes
4     Partial good/fair work with 4 or 5 major mistakes
3.5   Overall lower quality, with several major mistakes that represent some basic misunderstandings
3     Lots of mistakes and misunderstandings
1-2   Inadequate work
0     Missing work

*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 final exam. Make-up exams must be arranged and approved ahead of time. Otherwise, there will be no make-up exams without a documented emergency medical excuse.

*Language Project.* You will be required to select a language to investigate. It should be a language that you are (i) personally interested in and (ii) can find reasonable resources for. It cannot be English, Spanish, German, or French. You will be documenting its basic syntax and morphology. The project will proceed piece-meal as a series of three individual assignments. You are required to turn these in individually on the dates indicated on the schedule. At the end of the semester, you are to compile your studies into a coherent report on the syntax and morphology of the language, to be graded.

Note, you will have to choose (a) book(s) to get information about your language. In addition to the library, we also have some books in the department, which are kept at George Collins' office. Please contact him if you want to borrow a book. His office is at B132 Turlington. His e-mail address is gbcollins@ufl.edu and his phone number is: 850-814-6726. Office hours: M 12.00-3:00. When you hand in the last part of the project you will have to return the book to the department (Make sure to get a receipt).

*Attendance and participation.* Attendance and participation are essential. Although they are not part of your grade and I will not be keeping records, you are unlikely to succeed in this course without coming to class and paying attention. The material on the exams will come from the texts but also largely from what we do in class. Lecture notes and the texts will not always coincide.

*Overall grade.* The weighting of the various requirements in the final grade is
* Homework problems          36% (6% each)
* Exams                      51% (17% each)
* Language project           13% (1x1 + 4x3)

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

The course grading scale is below. Further information about UF's grading policies can be found at: http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/regulationgrades.html

| A | A- | B+ | B | B- | C+ | C | C- | D+ | D | D- | E |
|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|---|
| 90 or above | 87-89 | 84-86 | 80-83 | 77-79 | 74-76 | 70-73 | 67-69 | 64-66 | 60-63 | 57-59 | 56 or below |

**Other issues**

Honor Code:     http://www.chem.ufl.edu/~itl/honor.html
Disabilities:   http://www.chem.ufl.edu/~itl/disabilities.html
Counseling:     http://www.chem.ufl.edu/~itl/counseling.html

***Schedule***

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

*DOL: Design of Language          US: Understanding Syntax*

| WEEK | DATES | TOPICS | READINGS, WORK AND EXAMS |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Aug 21, 23 | The language system; Intro to morphological analysis | DOL ch. 1 (esp. 1-10) DOL ch. 5 (230-232; 252-256) |
| 2 | Aug. 26, 28, 30 | Morphological concepts; Processes | DOL ch. 5 (257-271) **8/30 LP#1** |
| 3 | Sept. 4, 6 (Note: Sept 2 is Labor Day – classes cancelled; Sept 4 is Rosh ha-Shana Eve- class will be given by TA) | Morphological Processes | DOL ch. 5 (232-252) **9/6 HW#1** |
| 4 | Sept. 9, 11, 13 | Allomorphy | DOL ch. 6 **9/13 HW#2** |
| 5 | Sept. 16, 18, 20 | Allomorphy | DOL ch. 6 **9/20 Exam 1** |
| 6 | Sept. 23, 25, 27 | Word classes: Nouns | *DOL* ch. 4 (189-213) DOL ch. 7 (309-323) **9/27 HW#3** |
| 7 | Sept 30, Oct. 2, 4 | Word classes: Verbs | DOL ch. 4 (213-229) DOL ch. 7 (323-329) |
| 8 | Oct.7, 9, 11 | Introduction to syntax | *US* ch. 1; ch. 2 DOL ch.1 (10-18) **10/11: HW #4** |
| 9 | Oct. 14, 16, 18 | Rules and Trees | *DOL* (23-37); *US* ch. 3; ch.4 **10/18: LP #2** |
| 10 | Oct. 21, 23, 25 | Constituent Structure | *US* ch. 5; *DOL* ch. 1 (18-23) **10/25: HW #5** |
| 11 | Oct. 28, 30, Nov. 1 | Constituent Structure | **11/1: Exam 2** |
| 12 | Nov. 4, 6 (Note: Nov 8 is Homecoming – no classes) | Grammatical Relations | US ch. 6 (171-181) DOL ch. 7 (316-321) |
| 13 | Nov. 13, 15 (Note: Nov 11: Veterans Day – no classes) | Grammatical Relations: Voice and Valence | US ch.. 6 (160-171) **11/15 LP #3** |
| 14 | Nov. 18, 20, 22 | Voice and Valence; Syntactic Operations; Wh-Q | US ch. 7, CH. 8 (217-228) **11/22: HW #6** |
| 15 | Nov. 25 Please note that there is no class on Nov. 27, 29 | Language Typology; Relative Clauses | US ch. 8 (228-240) |
| 16 | Dec. 2, 4 | Review and Exam | **12/2: Final Project Due 12/4 EXAM 3** |