

## LIN 3460: Structure of Human Language

Class Number: 15024  
Day/period: T/Th 4<sup>th</sup> per synchronous; 1 lecture per week asynchronous  
Location: Online (Canvas)  
Final exam: 12/18 10am-12pm

### *Facilitators:*

Instructor: Brent Henderson, Associate Professor  
Office: Turlington 4125  
Office hours: via Zoom by appointment  
Email: [bhendrsn@ufl.edu](mailto:bhendrsn@ufl.edu)

TA: Caleb Ewing  
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### **Course Description and Prerequisites**

This course explores the structure of language, focusing on the structure of words (morphology) and the structure of sentences (syntax) across the world's languages. We'll be digging into data from lots of different languages and along the way we will pick up the vocabulary and analytical tools that linguists use to make generalizations that not only help us describe language scientifically, but allow us to uncover the unconscious structural system that all human languages have a basis in. Note, this course requires the successful completion of LIN 3010 (Introduction to Linguistics), so if you haven't taken that, please let me know.

### **Modality:**

This course is mostly synchronous, with two contact hours per week held live via Zoom. These will not be recorded and students are expected to attend as they would an in person class. Practice and group activities will be a heavy focus during these hours. In addition, one class hour per week will consist of a pre-recorded lecture uploaded to Canvas. These will focus more on conceptual material and introducing novel ideas that we will discuss and practice with elsewhere in the course.

### **Objectives:**

By the end of this semester, you will be able to:

- appreciate and discuss structural differences and similarities between the world's languages
- become familiar with common grammatical categories and their expressions typologically
- analyze and describe the morphological systems of languages
- analyze and describe various syntactic structures in different languages
- work with others to write and present a 'mini grammar' of a language

### **Course Materials**

Available via Canvas:

Kroeger, Paul. 2005. *Analyzing Grammar: An introduction*. Cambridge. (Select readings from this text will be made available)

Available at Reitz union bookstore or other retailers:

Tallerman, Maggie. 2015. *Understanding Syntax* (4<sup>th</sup> Edition). Routledge.

All other course materials (syllabus, handouts, homeworks, etc.) will be available on e-Learning via Canvas: [lss.ufl.ufl.edu](https://lss.ufl.ufl.edu)

### Course Requirements

There will be **six homework assignments** throughout the semester, with the lowest score dropped. Homework assignments are to be submitted via Canvas as .pdf files on their respective due dates. Late work will not be accepted.

Throughout the semester you will be working in *groups of 3* 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. **Each group will also be presenting one** of the language project parts, on the respective due date. More information on this project will be forthcoming.

There will be **two exams**, a midterm and a final. They are cumulative; yet an understanding of the more complex concepts follows from understanding the foundational concepts. The **final exam** (exam 3) date/time for your section can be found at the top of the syllabus.

### Class Participation and Quizzes

Class participation is essential to the success of this course. You are unlikely to succeed in this course without coming to class, paying attention, and participating. There will **also be 5 pop(ish) quizzes** throughout the semester. This will be administered through the Canvas quiz module and announced via email and Canvas announcements. The dates for these quizzes are not announced ahead of time, but you will have three days to complete them.

### Attendance

Attendance will be taken daily using the 'participant' list on Zoom. Attendance will not be a part of the semester's grade, but you are unlikely to do well in this class without regular attendance.

### Grading

*Your overall grade will be determined as follows:*

exams	35%	(15% for midterm, 20% for final)
homework	25%	(5% each, lowest dropped of 6)
lang. project	30%	(20% for final product, 10% for presentations)
pop quizzes	10%	(5 quizzes, 2% each)

*The following grading scale will be used to determine course grades:*

A	94-100	A-	90-93.4		
B+	87-89.4	B	84-86.4	B-	80-83.4
C+	77-79.4	C	74-76.4	C-	70-74.4

D+ 67-69.4      D 64-66.4      D- 61-63.4  
E < 60.4

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. *No* extra credit will be offered throughout this course.

### University Honesty Policy

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://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduction-honor-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.

### Counseling and Wellness Center

Contact information for the Counseling and Wellness Center: <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx>, 392-1575; and the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.

### 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.

wk	T	Th	Topic	Readings	Due dates
1	9/1	9/3	Course intro; basic concepts	AG: Ch 1	
2	9/8	9/10	Analyzing word structure	AG: Ch 2	
3	9/15	9/17	Inflectional categories	AG: Ch 8, 9	
4	9/22	9/24	Derivational morphology	AG: Ch 13	LP 1 due 9/18; HW1 due 9/22

5	9/29	10/1	Morphological Systems	No reading	HW 2 due 9/30
6	10/6	10/8	Allomorphy	AG: Ch 15	
7	10/13	10/15	Non-concatenative morphology	AG: Ch 16	HW 3 due 10/14
8	10/20	10/22	LP Presentations/Midterm		LP 2 due 10/20
9	10/27	10/29	Intro to syntax; word classes	US: Ch 1, 2	HW 4 due 10/28
10	11/3	11/5	Clause and clause types	US: Ch 3, 4	
11	11/10	11/12	Complements and Adjuncts	US: Ch 3, 4	HW 5 due 11/11
12	11/17	11/19	Word order issues; constituent structure	US: Ch 4, 6.1-6.2	LP 3 due 11/19
13	11/24	NC	Agreement and Case checking	US: Ch 6.3-6.7	
14	12/1	12/3	Movement	US Ch 7, 8	LP 4 due 12/3
15	12/8		Final Review		HW 6 due 12/7
			Final LP due: 12/13 Final exam: 12/18 10am-12pm		

AG = Analyzing Grammar; US = Understanding Syntax