

LIN 6402 Morphology
Spring 2021, T 5-6 and R 6, Sect 26623
Online; Exams in person

Instructor

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Course description

Morphology is the subfield of linguistics that deals with the internal structure of words. The goal of morphological research is to describe and explain the word structure patterns found across the world's languages. This course will introduce students to the basic phenomena of morphological structure, using data from a diverse array of languages. This course will also be an exercise in theory building as we build an increasingly sophisticated and explanatory theory of morphological structure through the duration of the class.

We will address questions such as:

- What are 'words' and what is their status in linguistics?
- How do word structure and sentence structure relate to one another?
- What's the relationship between the structure of words and phonological processes?
- Do we need a distinct theory of word formation?

Students who complete this course will be able to:

- Analyze complex words into their meaningful parts, both in English and unfamiliar languages
- Use common vocabulary to discuss morphological categories
- Distinguish and formalize regular morphological and phonological grammar rules.
- Discuss the broad issues of words structure in the context of the overall architecture of mental grammar.

There is no textbook for this course.

We will have a few readings, especially in the second half of the semester. These will all be made available on Canvas.

Lectures and other course material

The core course material will be provided through live online lectures and activity during our class time. We will work through data together to uncover essentially generalizations and principles and discuss the implications they have for a theory of morphology. Your willingness to ask questions, discuss and interact is essential to the success of the course. Handouts and/or slides will be used to facilitate discussions and condensed lecture notes may be posted. Review checklists for exams will also be provided.

Requirements/Grading LIN 6402

- problem sets 35%
- exam 1 20%
- exam 2 20%
- analysis project 25%

PROBLEM SETS. Seven problems sets will be assigned over the course of the semester. The set will be given out a week before they are due. They are designed to give you practical experience with the concepts learned in class. You may work on them alone or together however, you must write up your solutions entirely on your own, in accordance with the University of Florida Honor Code (the policy is available at <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/academic.php>). Homeworks that are nearly identical (same phrases, sentences, etc.) will be treated as possible plagiarism cases.

Problem sets must be neatly typed and printed out or legibly written. They are to be turned in on Canvas by the assigned date/time. We will discuss the homeworks in class; therefore, **late work will not be accepted** unless there is a documented emergency and prior arrangements have been made.

EXAMS. There will be two exams spaced evenly during the semester. Each will have a take-home component. You may not work with others on the take-home exams or discuss them with other sentient beings in any way. Please, please believe that it is very easy to know when this has occurred and all such instances will be treated as instances of academic dishonesty. Tentative exam dates are on the schedule. The second exam is not a ‘final exam’ and is not cumulative except in the sense that learning is cumulative.

Analysis Projects

Graduate students must complete an original analysis project. This involves collecting data on a language you are not familiar with from a native speaker and writing up an analysis of some aspect of its morphological structure. You must identify the language and speaker yourself and collect and analyze your own data. You may not consult books or grammars or website on the language. Your analysis must be written up as a paper (expected to be between 8-12 pages or so), presenting your data and analysis. Specific projects and goals must be pre-approved by Dr. Henderson.

Attendance and participation

Attendance and participation are not a part of the grade. However, you are unlikely to do well in the course without attending, taking good notes, and being a part of the discussion. If you miss a class, you should review the reading, get notes from a classmate, and come discuss the material in office hours.

Grading

The course grading scale is the one recommended by CLAS. Other info on UF grading policies can be found here: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>. Please check the course website regularly to ensure your grades have been recorded accurately and let the instructor know right away if you believe a mistake has been made.

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

Classroom policies:

Copyright:

Material produced for this course are copyrighted by the instructor. Any lecture notes, problem sets, assignments, or exams may not be reproduced or uploaded to the web.

Late Assignments and email:

Late Assignments are not accepted without valid proof of an emergency situation. If you know you will not be able to attend class on the day an assignment is due, please contact me ahead of time to inform me and ask permission to turn in an assignment early via email. Generally, emailed assignments will not be accepted; if an exception is made for this, assignments must be in single-document .pdf form.

Laptops/cell phones:

Laptops may not be used in class unless you have a condition which requires it. Cell phone use is not permitted. Research has shown use of cell phones and laptops to take notes in class reduce retention rates not only for the user, but for others in the class as well.

Other Issues

I would like to hear from anyone who has a disability which may require some modification in seating, testing, or other class requirements. Please contact me in any way that is comfortable for you so that appropriate arrangements can be made. Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation.

Schedule. Below is a tentative schedule of topics to be covered and the corresponding readings. Readings should be completed before coming to class on the dates on which the reading is listed. Problem sets should be completed before class and brought to class on the dates they are listed as due. It is likely this schedule will change, so be sure you are following the most recent version of the syllabus.

WEEK	DATES	TOPICS	READINGS, EXAMS, PSS
1	1/12,14	Course overview; background discussion Words, morphemes, Roots and Affixes	
2	1/19, 21	Intro to allomorphy; derivation vs. inflection	PS1 due 1/20
3	1/26, 28	Derivational morphology: selection, structure and cyclicity	
4	2/2, 4	Derivation: category and adjunction	PS2 due 2/3
5	2/9, 11	Compounding: trees and headedness	
6	2/16, 18	Compounding: words vs. phrases	PS3 due 2/15
7	2/23, 25	Argument structure in words	PS4 due 2/24
8	3/2, 4	Morphophonology: cyclicity and affixes	Exam 1: 3/2 In Class
9	3/9, 11	Morphonology: lexical and	Take home exam portion due 3/8

		productive rules; bracketing paradoxes	
10	3/16, 18	Inflection and Realizational morphology	PS5 due 3/15
11	3/23, 25	Inflection: defaults and readjustment rules	PS6 due 3/24
12	3/30, 4/1	Reduplication	
13	4/6, 8	Nonconcatenative morphology	
14	4/13, 15	Typology, Acquisition and Psycholinguistics	PS7 due; Eifring & Thiel, Ch 4
15	4/20	Exam 2 in class	
	4/26	Exam 2 take home due	
	4/29	Final Project due	