

LIN 4400 Introduction to Morphology

LIN 6402 Morphology 1

Spring 2026

when: M/W/F 6 (Monday, Wednesday, Friday 12:50 PM - 1:40 PM)

where: TUR 2349

course website: [elearning.ufl.edu](#) on Canvas

instructor: Irina Burukina

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office hours (in person & Zoom): TBA

reserve your spot here: [irinaburukina.youcanbook.me](#)

the link for Zoom meetings: TBA

1 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-related structure patterns found across the world’s languages. This course will introduce you 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 will be building, updating, and revising increasingly sophisticated and explanatory theory of morphological structure.

2 Learning objectives

After completing the course the students will be able to:

- identify and describe various morphological phenomena from English and other languages,
- analyze complex words into their meaningful parts, in English and other languages,
- distinguish and formalize regular morphological and phonological grammar rules,
- work within a formal theory, formulate hypotheses, test them, and interpret the results,
- present research ideas and arguments.

3 Prerequisites

Undergraduate students:

- LIN 2011 Introduction to Linguistics (former LIN 3010)
- LIN 3460 Structure of Human Language

Graduate students: none.

4 Course materials

Required textbook:

- Haspelmath, Martin & Andrea D Sims. 2010. *Understanding Morphology*, 2nd edition. Routledge.

The textbook is available online, uploaded by the author.

Other readings and assignments not from the textbook will be available on the course website.

Instructional materials for this course consist of only those materials specifically reviewed, selected, and assigned by the instructor. The instructor is only responsible for these instructional materials.

5 Course requirements

1. Monday Reading Quiz – 10%
2. Friday Test Question – 10%
3. homework – 35% (5% for each HW)
4. mid-term test (in class) – 20%
5. final exam (take-home) – 25%

Late assignments are not accepted without valid proof/justification of an emergency situation.

You are encouraged to discuss your homework with other students. However, you should write your texts individually. Identical or nearly identical answers/squibs will get 0 (zero) points. Texts copied from the internet will get 0 (zero) points. All use of AI must be acknowledged and documented.

5.1 Monday Reading Quiz

Before the beginning of each week, you should read the assigned chapter from *Understanding Morphology* (indicated in the schedule below) and do the corresponding Monday Reading Quiz, available on Canvas. Each quiz consists of one-two short questions and is graded on a satisfactory-unsatisfactory basis.

5.2 Friday Test Question

At the end of each week (**starting on week 2, January 23**), you should prepare one Test Question based on the material discussed that week. Don't show the question to your classmates. Bring it to class on Friday. We will start Friday sessions by going through your (plural) questions.

A good Test Question: (i) is a question about the theory (discussed in class and presented in the readings), (ii) has a clear unambiguous **short** answer. Yes-no questions and multiple-choice questions do not count.

5.3 Homework

There will be **seven** homework assignments. These will be problem sets focusing on applying the concept and principles discussed in class to new linguistic data. All homework assignments will become available on Canvas on Wednesday afternoon and will be due by next Wednesday morning (9 AM). Please type your answers and submit the assignments on Canvas (as a .pdf or .doc file). The homework assignments will be graded on a satisfactory-unsatisfactory basis. We will discuss them in class.

Tools for drawing trees:

- [SynTree online](#)
- [jsSyntaxTree online](#)
- [Treeform, download](#)
- [L^AT_EX packages: qtree](#)

5.4 Mid-term test (in class)

There will be one mid-term in-class test based on the readings and handouts, scheduled during our usual class time (preliminarily, on **March 11**). We will have a practice session before the mid-term test.

5.5 Final exam (take-home)

The final exam will be take-home and open-book and it will require critical thinking and understanding of the material covered during the semester. It will become available on Canvas on April 19 and will be due on **April 27**. We will have two practice/consultation sessions on April 20 and April 22, scheduled during our usual class time.

6 Grading

The course follows UF grading policies; [see the official webpage](#).

	B+	87-89.9	C+	77-79.9	D+	67-69.9	E	59.9 and below
A	93-100	B	83-86.9	C	73-76.9	D	63-66.9	
A-	90-92.9	B-	80-82.9	C-	70-72.9	D-	60-62.9	

7 Attendance

Attendance is **not** a part of your grade. Nevertheless, you should attend the classes, take notes, and participate in the discussion. If you have to miss a class, you should go through the corresponding handout and study the assigned materials; if you have questions, you can schedule an appointment with me.

8 Exams

Two exams will be given: a mid-term test and a final exam. The mid-term test will cover material from approximately half of the course, including information presented in lectures, handouts, and the assigned readings. The final exam will cover material from the whole course. The exams will test your knowledge of basic concepts, terms, as well as data analysis. See above for more details.

9 Academic Policies

This course complies with all UF academic policies. For information on those policies and for resources for students, please [see this link](#).

10 Campus resources

10.1 Health and Wellness

- *U Matter, We Care*: If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu, 352-392-1575, or [visit U Matter, We Care website](#) to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.
- *Counseling and Wellness Center*: [Visit the Counseling and Wellness Center website](#) or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.
- *Student Health Care Center*: Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or [visit the Student Health Care Center website](#).
- *University Police Department*: [Visit UF Police Department website](#) or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).
- *UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center*: For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608. [Visit the UF Health Emergency Room and Trauma Center website](#).
- *GatorWell Health Promotion Services*: For prevention services focused on optimal wellbeing, including Wellness Coaching for Academic Success, [visit the GatorWell website](#) or call 352-273-4450.

10.2 Academic resources

- *E-learning technical support*: Contact the UF Computing Help Desk at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at helpdesk@ufl.edu. [Visit the UF Computing Help Desk website](#).
- *Career Connections Center*: [Visit the website of Career assistance and counseling services](#).
- *Library Support*: Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources. [Visit the library support website](#).
- *Academic Resources*: General study skills and tutoring. [Visit the Academic Resources website](#).
- *Writing Studio*: Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers. [Visit the Writing Studio website](#).
- *Academic Complaints*: Office of the Ombuds. [Visit the Complaint Portal webpage](#).
- *Enrollment Management Complaints (Registrar, Financial Aid, Admissions)*: [Visit the Student Complaint Procedure webpage](#).

11 Tentative schedule

This is a preliminary schedule of the course. Changes to it will be announced in class in advance. You have to read all of the assigned readings (indicated in the schedule) **before** the Monday class.

Date	Topic	Reading	
week 1 (Jan 12, 14, 16)	syllabus, introduction		
week 2 (Jan 21, 23)	rules, processes, approaches	UndMorph ch. 2, 3	
week 3 (Jan 26, 28, 30)	lexicon	UndMorph ch. 4	
week 4 (Feb 2, 4, 6)	inflection & derivation	UndMorph ch. 5	HW1 assigned
week 5 (Feb 9, 11, 13)	structure & hierarchy	UndMorph ch. 7, 9	HW2 assigned
week 6 (Feb 16, 18, 20)	words, phrases, compounds	UndMorph ch. 7, 9	HW3 assigned
week 7 (Feb 23, 25, 27)	morphology & argument structure	UndMorph ch. 11	HW4 assigned
week 8 (March 2, 4, 6)	productivity	UndMorph ch. 6	
week 9 (March 9, 11, 13)	practice & mid-term		
week 10 (March 16, 18, 20)	spring break		
week 11 (March 23, 25, 27)	morphemes & features	UndMorph ch. 8	
week 12 (M 30; April 1, 3)	morphology & phonology	UndMorph ch. 10	HW5 assigned
week 13 (April 6, 8, 10)	morphology & phonology	UndMorph ch. 10	HW6 assigned
week 14 (April 13, 15, 17)	non-concatenative morphology		HW7 assigned
week 15 (April 20, 22)	review		
final exam due April 27			