

LING 105 MORPHOLOGY

Instructor: Dr. Natalie Operstein
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Lecture: MW 4-5:50pm, Bunche Hall 3156
Office Hours: MW 2-3pm, Rolfe Hall 3312

Course Description

This course provides an introduction to the study of the internal structure of words. Topics to be discussed include the basic units of the lexicon, the distinction between inflection and derivation, interaction between morphology and other linguistic levels, morphological change in contact and non-contact settings, and cross-linguistic differences in morphological complexity. The goals of the course include to gain exposure to a variety of morphological phenomena that occur in languages and to develop your own analyses of linguistic data and skills of theoretical argumentation. The course will emphasize practical skills of linguistic analysis, with part of most classes devoted to data analysis and problem solving. *Prerequisite:* Ling 20.

Course Grade

To receive credit for this course, you must successfully take two midterm examinations (40% for the midterm with the higher score and 30% for the other midterm), write a term paper (30%), and actively participate in scheduled class meetings.

Midterms. Each midterm is a proctored, closed-book examination. It will consist of questions requiring essay-type answers and problem sets similar to the ones that will be assigned as homework and discussed in class. The material tested by each midterm is completely covered by the combination of readings from the textbook, lectures, and practice problems. The first midterm is partial, and the second midterm is cumulative.

There will be no makeup midterms. If you miss the first midterm for a valid and documented reason, such as an illness or family emergency, your score on the second midterm will be used in place of that midterm score.

Term paper. During the quarter, you will investigate a topic in morphology. On the basis of your research, you will prepare a paper prospectus and summarize your findings in the form of a final paper. The paper prospectus should provide a clear outline of your proposed project; the term paper and the paper prospectus together will count for 30% of your grade. Depending on time availability, you may make a brief oral presentation of your paper toward the end of the course. Suggested topics and guidelines for the term paper will be posted on the course website.

Homework. I will assign homework problems for most chapters. Though no separate credit will be given for solving them, your ability to solve these problems will play a key role in successful completion of the course. We will discuss answers to homework problems in class, so it is important to complete them beforehand. If you understand the material in the lectures and assigned readings and can solve every homework problem correctly, you should be able to successfully pass the midterm examinations. If a particular topic or type of problem causes difficulties, please see me during my office hours for clarification, since your comprehension of new topics depends on your understanding of past material.

Attendance and active participation in class meetings is expected. You are expected to be prepared for class and you should expect to be called upon to present your analysis of any problem from the current homework.

The +/- grading system will be used, as follows:

A+	97-100	B+	87-89	C+	77-79	D+	67-69
A	93-96	B	83-86	C	73-76	D	63-66
A-	90-92	B-	80-82	C-	70-72	D-	60-62

Textbook

Haspelmath, Martin & Andrea D. Sims. 2010. *Understanding Morphology*. 2nd ed. London & New York: Routledge. [Additional readings will be posted on the course website]

Course Website

This course has an associated website in Bruin Learn (Canvas). Please familiarize yourself with the site and check it at least once a week for updates.

Disability Services

Any students seeking disability services please register with the CAE as soon as possible. If you are already registered and require assistance for the quarter, please release your accommodation letters by the end of week one.

Approximate Course Outline

(timing and order of topics may be adjusted as needed)

Week	Dates	Topics	Readings	Important Dates
1	3/28, 3/30	Basics of morphological analysis	Chapters 1, 2	
2	4/4, 4/6	Morphological patterns	Chapter 3	
3	4/11, 4/13	Inflection and derivation	Chapter 5	
4	4/18, 4/20	Inflectional paradigms	Chapter 8	
5	4/25 4/27	Morphology of valence	Chapter 11	
6	5/2 5/4	Morphology-phonology interface	Chapter 10	Midterm (5/4)
7	5/9 5/11	Morphology-syntax interface	Chapters 7, 9	Prospectus due (5/9)
8	5/16 5/18	Morphological change	Chapter 12	
9	5/23 5/25	Morphological complexity. Morphologies in contact	(On Canvas)	
10	5/30	Memorial Day: No Class		
	6/1			Midterm (6/1)
11	6/6			Term Paper is due