

CAS LX 521 Morphology- Spring 2016

Time: MWF 12-1

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Location: CAS 116

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Office hours: TBA

Course website: Blackboard Learn

Course objectives:

What is a word? Do the things we put spaces around when we write correspond to anything in our mental grammars? How does morphology relate to phonology, and to other areas of grammar, such as syntax and semantics? To what extent do the principles governing the structures and forms of words need to be boxed off from other areas of grammar, and to what extent are they symptomatic of deeper principles which hold of the language faculty as a whole? This course aims to answer these and other questions by examining morphological phenomena from across the world's languages, including English and languages which are (at least superficially) very different from it.

Prerequisites for the course:

CAS LX 250 Introduction to Linguistics (or equivalent), or permission of the instructor.

Students completing the course will learn:

- To identify the meaningful subparts of words and perform morphological analysis on unfamiliar languages
- To understand the major morphological phenomena found in the world's languages
- To analyze morphological and phonological patterns in particular languages, and their interactions
- To represent morphosyntactic structure diagrammatically, and comprehend the relationship between such structure and meaning
- To show an understanding of major theoretical issues surrounding how the components of the human language faculty fit together (i.e., *the architecture of the grammar*), and the role played by the study of morphology in addressing those issues

Required Reading (Available at Barnes and Noble in Kenmore Square):

The main textbook for this course, which we will read almost in its entirety, is the following:

- Harley, Heidi. 2006. *English Words: A Linguistic Introduction*. Oxford: Blackwell.

In addition, there will occasionally be readings from other sources- all of these will be posted in pdf form to Blackboard.

Note that the textbook is just the foundation of this course, not the totality of it, and that *you cannot pass this course by reading the textbook alone*. Regular attendance in class is therefore essential- see below on class procedures.

Course Requirements and grading

Undergraduates:

- Class participation (10%)
- 9 Assignments (40%)
- Midterm examination (20%)
- Final examination (30%)

Graduate Students:

- Class participation (10%)
- 9 Assignments (30%)
- Midterm examination (20%)
- Final examination (20%)
- Final project (20%)

Class participation will be assessed on the basis of your attendance record and your level of participation in class discussions/in-class exercises.

The Assignments will be a mixture of linguistic problem-solving (i.e., applying analytical techniques and skills learned in class to unfamiliar linguistic data) and short-answer critical thinking questions.

Both the Midterm and the Final examinations will be a mixture of multiple choice, problem-solving and short-answer questions. The Final will not be cumulative, in the sense that pre-Midterm material will not be tested directly on the Final. However, post-Midterm material builds heavily on the conceptual foundations laid down during the first half of the course.

Graduate students will additionally produce a final project based on original fieldwork, due on the last day of class:-

- You will find a speaker of a language you don't know anything about, and gather data on some aspect of the morphology of the language.
- Exception: if you happen to be a native speaker of a very understudied language which you use regularly, then you may work on that language using your own intuitions.
- Your speaker should be a native speaker of the language who uses it regularly.
- You can use only your own data, and you may not consult any existing reference materials on the language. If your consultant is a linguist or a language teacher, make sure they understand not to tell you what the "standard" analysis of the phenomena you are analyzing is.
- You will then analyze your data and write it up as a paper (10-20ish pages), providing full derivations from morphosyntactic structure to the surface phonology.
- You'll meet regularly with me to discuss your project. Set up a meeting with me soon to discuss how to identify a consultant and how to work with one.

Course policies:

Copyright. All materials used in this course are copyrighted. This is obvious in the case of the textbook readings, **but it also holds of my lecture slides, exercises, and other materials.** Reproducing class materials, or uploading them to websites, is a copyright infringement.

New assignments are posted to Blackboard on Friday mornings, and are due on the following Friday. Completed assignments are to be printed out and turned in at the beginning of Friday class. Email submission is not permitted unless you are unable to attend class for some valid reason.

Late assignments are not accepted, except under relevant extenuating circumstances.

Please let me know of any unavoidable absences, whether for religious, personal, or health reasons, as soon as you become aware of them. If you know you will be observing one or more religious holidays this semester, please examine the syllabus to determine which class days you will need to miss, and let me know by email as soon as possible. I will work with you to help you catch up on missed work, in accordance with BU's policy on religious absences:

(<http://www.bu.edu/academics/policies/absence-for-religious-reasons/>)

No make-up exams will be granted, unless compelling personal, religious, or medical reasons force you to miss an examination and you have my permission in advance. The decision to grant or refuse a make-up exam is mine. A make-up exam will always be accommodated in the event of a religious absence.

Procedures. Class time will be used to reinforce, practice, and extend material found in the readings. As well as new material, classes will often involve group exercises designed to reinforce the more difficult concepts.

Classroom etiquette. No cell phones, except when special permission is given to take photographs of the board. Laptops are to be used only for taking notes. Even so, you might be better off leaving your laptop at home and taking hand-written notes:

<http://www.vox.com/2014/6/4/5776804/note-taking-by-hand-versus-laptop>

Extra credit exercises will be granted only at my discretion and, if granted at all, will be made available to the whole class in the form of additional “bonus” sections of assignments or exams.

Academic Integrity. All students are responsible for understanding and complying with the BU Academic Conduct Code, available at:

<http://www.bu.edu/academics/resources/academic-conduct-code/>

Graduate students should refer to the GRS Academic Conduct Code, which can be found here:

<http://www.bu.edu/cas/students/graduate/forms-policies-procedures/academic-discipline-procedures/>

Collaboration. If you decide to form a study group to work together on assignments, your collaboration should not go beyond discussing ideas together. In other words, **you must write up your own assignment separately from the group, using only your own words** (except when quoting other work directly, in which case use citations as standard).

The following are all **banned forms of collaboration**:

- Having one or more members of the group produce a “group draft”, or “group essay plan”, which individual members of the group then customize.
- Writing up on separate computers while conferring with each other in real time (whether in person or via skype, chat services, or any other medium).
- Using another student’s complete assignment as a reference when completing your own.

Furthermore, **when assignments are problem-set-based rather than essay-based, I encourage you to try to work alone**, at least at first, before coming together with fellow students. Otherwise, it will be hard for you to tell how much you’ve really understood.

Grading standards:

93-100	A	78-79.99	C+
90-92.99	A-	73-77.99	C
88-89.99	B+	70-72.99	C-
83-87.99	B	60-69.99	D
80-82.99	B-	<60	F

Course Overview (subject to change- any updates will be posted to Blackboard)

Week Dates	Topic	Readings	Deadlines
Week 1 Wed, Jan 20	Introduction <i>Course overview & logistics</i> <i>Why morphology?</i>		
Friday, Jan 22	The notion “word” <i>What is a word?</i> <i>Identifying the pieces of words</i>	<i>Harley Ch 1 & 4</i>	
Week 2 Monday, Jan 25	Derivational morphology <i>The derivation vs. inflection</i> <i>distinction- valid or not?</i> <i>Roots and affixes</i>	<i>Harley Ch 5 & 6</i>	
Wed, Jan 27	<i>Structure and meaning in words</i>		
Friday, Jan 29	<i>Introduction to realization rules</i> <i>and allomorphy</i>		Assignment 1 Due (wordhood and morphological analysis)
Week 3 Monday, Feb 1	Inflectional morphology <i>Major types of inflection</i>		
Wed, Feb 3	<i>More realization rules and</i> <i>allomorphy</i>		
Friday, Feb 5	<i>Scope, introduction to the</i> <i>Mirror Principle</i>		Assignment 2 Due (derivational morphology; tree- drawing)
Week 4 Monday, Feb 8	Introducing Phonology <i>IPA refresher</i>	<i>Harley Ch 2</i>	
Wed, Feb 10	<i>Phonological rules</i> <i>Underlying forms and surface</i> <i>forms</i>		
Friday, Feb 12	<i>Rule ordering</i> (Early Finish to go to Zanuttini colloquium)		Assignment 3 Due (inflectional morphology; allomorphy; scope)

Week 5 Monday, Feb 15	Presidents' Day—No Class		
Tuesday, Feb 16	Phonological Words and the Prosodic Hierarchy <i>Possible and impossible phonological words</i> <i>Syllable structure</i>	<i>Harley Ch 3</i>	
Wed, Feb 17	<i>Phonotactics in English and other Languages</i>		
Friday, Feb 19	<i>The prosodic hierarchy</i>		Assignment 4 (phonology problem sets; rules and rule ordering)
Week 6 Monday, Feb 22	Phonologically Conditioned Allomorphy <i>Phonologically-conditioned suppletive allomorphy (PCSA) vs. pure phonology</i>	<i>Reread Harley section 6.3</i>	
Wed, Feb 24	<i>Typological generalizations concerning PCSA and the order of spell-out</i>		
Friday, Feb 26	The division of labor between allomorphy and phonological rules <i>“Readjustment” rules and semi-irregular forms</i> <i>Practice distinguishing true allomorphy from the action of regular phonology</i>		Assignment 5 (phonological words and phonotactics); Practice Midterm Released
Week 7 Monday, Feb 29	More Division of Labor Practice (In-Class Assignment)		
Wed, March 2	Midterm review <i>Come prepared with questions based on the practice midterm</i>		

Friday, March 4	In-Class Midterm		No assignment due- Break for Midterm
Monday, March 7	Spring Break		
Wed, March 9			
Friday, March 11			
Week 8 Monday, March 14	Discussion of Midterm		
Wed, March 16	Prosodic Morphology <i>Reduplication</i> <i>Infixation</i>		
Friday, March 18	<i>Root and pattern morphology</i>		No assignment due
Week 9 Monday, March 21	Lexical semantics <i>Content meanings vs. grammatical meanings</i> <i>Entailments</i>	<i>Harley Ch 7</i>	
Wed, March 23	<i>Introduction to argument structure</i>		
Friday, March 25	<i>Argument structure continued</i>		Assignment 6 Due (Prosodic Morphology)
Week 10 Monday, March 27	Morphology and Argument Structure <i>Argument structure-changing morphology</i> <i>The sensitivity of morphology to syntactic argument structure</i> <i>Morphology and the syntactic structure of verb phrases</i>		

Wed, March 29	<i>The Mirror Principle redux: In-depth discussion of Muysken</i>	<i>Muysken 1981 (up to page 309)</i>	
Friday, April 1	Class Cancelled- Professor Myler away		
Week 11 Monday, April 4	The Acquisition of Morphology <i>Learning biases</i>	<i>Harley Ch 8;</i>	Assignment 7 Due (Lexical semantics and argument structure)
Wed, April 6	<i>Overgeneralization and undergeneralization</i>		
Friday, April 8	<i>The Wug test: Discussion of Berko (1958)</i>	<i>Berko 1958</i>	Assignment 8 Due (Argument structure)
Week 12 Monday, April 11	Morphology and Typology <i>Traditional morphological taxonomies</i>	<i>Greenberg 1963; Hall 1992 Ch 2</i>	
Wed, April 13	<i>The suffixing preference</i>		
Friday, April 15	<i>Formal and functional explanations</i>		Assignment 9 Due (Acquisition)
Week 13 Monday, April 18	Patriots' Day—No Class		Practice Final Released
Wed, April 20	Morphology and Psycholinguistics <i>The past tense debate</i>	<i>Pinker 1999 Ch 4; Embick and Marantz 2005</i>	
Friday, April 22	<i>Psycholinguistics continued</i>		
Week 14 Monday, April 25	Buffer and Final Review <i>Buffer; Course Evaluations</i>		
Wed, April 27	<i>Final Review Session I</i>		Work through practice final in advance.
Friday, April 29	<i>Final Review Session II</i>		No assignment due- work through practice final in advance.
TBA	FINAL EXAM		

Course Bibliography

Berko, Jean. 1958. The child's learning of English morphology. *Word* 14:150-177.

Embick, David and Alec Marantz. 2005. Cognitive neuroscience and the English past tense: Comments on the paper by Ullman et al. *Brain and Language* 93:243-247.

Greenberg, Joseph. 1963. Some universals of grammar with particular reference to the order of meaningful elements. Reprinted in Roberts, Ian (ed.) 2006. *Comparative Grammar Vol. 1*. London, Routledge.

Hall, Christopher. 1992. *Morphology and Mind*. London: Routledge.

Harley, Heidi. 2006. *English Words: A Linguistic Introduction*. Oxford: Blackwell.

Muysken, Pieter. 1981. Quechua word structure. In F. Heny (ed.) *Filters and Binding*. pp. 279-329. London: Longmans.

Pinker, Steven. 1999. *Words and Rules: The Ingredients of Language*. New York: Harper.