

CAS LX 521    Syllabus  
Morphology    Spring 2013

Prerequisite: CAS LX 250

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**Class schedule**  
Mon – Wed – Fri: 3–4PM  
CAS 208

**Office and office hours**  
621 Commonwealth Ave, B08  
617 358-4642

Th: 11AM–1PM & Fr: 4PM–5PM  
(or by appointment)

## General overview of the course

Survey of the different ways in which words are related in various languages. Combinatorial morphology (affixes, roots, etc.) and process morphology (ablaut, reduplication, etc.). Issues at the interfaces: morphonology, morphoprosody, morphosyntax, and the semantic compositionality of words. Basic introduction to some of the main theoretical frameworks.

## Course and learning objectives

Develop the ability to recognize morphological patterns and describe them within a general descriptive framework. Becoming able to identify phenomena at the interface between morphology and other parts of grammar. Getting acquainted with some of the principal theoretical frameworks used by morphologists today.

## Readings

### Required textbook

- Haspelmath, Martin and Andrea Sims. *Understanding Morphology*. Second Edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

### Other

- [Aronoff 1] Pages 211–233 of: Aronoff, Mark and Fudeman, Kirsten. 2010. *What is Morphology?* John Wiley and Sons.
- [Aronoff 2] Pages 102–110 of: Aronoff, Mark. 1976. *Word formation in generative grammar*. Linguistic Inquiry Monograph 1. MIT Press, Cambridge MA.

- [Bybee] Bybee, Joan. 1996. Productivity, Regularity and Fusion: How language use affects the lexicon. In Singh (1996), pp. 246–269.
- [Dasgupta] Dasgupta, Probal. 2003. The Importance of Being Earnest. In Singh, Rajendra and Starosta, Stanley (editors), Explorations in Seamless Morphology. Sage Publications, pp. 284–300.
- [Hurch] Hurch, Benhard. 1996. Morphoprosody: Some reflections on accent and morphology. In Singh (1996), pp. 188–221.
- [Karttunen] Karttunen, Lauri. 2003. Finite-State Technology. In Ruslan Mitkov (editor), The Oxford Handbook of Computational Linguistics. Oxford University Press, pp. 339-357.
- [Kiparsky] Pages 199–215 of: Kiparsky, Paul V. 1982. Explanation in Phonology. Foris Publications, Dordrecht.
- [Trubetzkoy] Pages 305–308 of: Trubetzkoy, Prince Nikolay Sergevich. 1969. Principles of phonology. (Grundzüge der Phonologie). Transl. by Christiane A.M. Baltaxe. University of California Press.

## Course requirements

- Regular attendance and participation: 5 %  
Participation includes asking relevant questions in class and using my office hours wisely.
- Assignments 1-8: 5% X 8 = 40%  
Each assignment consists of a set of problem-solving questions. Collaboration (up to two students per team) is encouraged for assignments.
- In-class quizzes 1-2: 15% X 2 = 30%  
Quiz 1 will test the material reviewed in weeks 1–5. Quiz 2 will test the material from weeks 6–10. Both quizzes may include short problem-solving questions as well.
- Final exam: 25%  
Questions on the final exclusively testing material from weeks 11–15 will count for 15% of the course. The other 10% can test anything we have covered during the semester.
- You are expected to notify me by email as early as possible of any exceptional circumstance justifying your absence from class and, again under exceptional circumstances, to obtain prior permission for late submission of an assignment. Otherwise, absences will be considered unexcused and late assignments will not be accepted.
- You are expected to abide by the CAS Academic Conduct Code:  
<http://www.bu.edu/cas/students/undergrad-resources/code/>  
Plagiarism in any form (including online sources), cheating and other academic misconduct will not be tolerated.

## Schedule

(potential changes will be announced in class)

Week	Date	Topic	Reading	Evaluation
1	W 1/16	What is morphology?		
	F 1/18	What isn't morphology?	Haspelmath, Ch. 1	
2		Empirical morphology:	Haspelmath, Ch. 2	
	W 1/23	Basic concepts		
	F 1/25	and a typology		
3	M 1/28	Rules	Haspelmath, Ch. 3	Assignment 1 due
	W 1/30			
	F 2/1			
4	M 2/4	Morpheme vs. word-based morphology	Haspelmath, Ch. 4	
	W 2/6			
	F 2/8			Assignment 2 due
5	M 2/11	Inflection/derivation	Haspelmath, Ch. 5	
	W 2/13			
	F 2/15			Assignment 3 due
6		Formal Morphology		
	W 2/20		[Karttunen]	
	F 2/22			Quiz 1
7	M 2/25	Productivity and Defectiveness	[Aronoff 1]	
	W 2/27			
	F 3/1		Haspelmath, Ch. 6	
8	M 3/4	Morphosyntax	Haspelmath, Ch. 7	Assignment 4 due
	W 3/6			
	F 3/8		Haspelmath, Ch. 8	
3/9 – 3/17		<b>Spring Break</b>		
9	M 3/18	Compounding and Clitics	Haspelmath, Ch. 9	
	W 3/20			
	F 3/22			
10	M 3/25	Morphophonology and allomorphy	[Trubetzkoy]	
	W 3/27			
	F 3/29		Haspelmath, Ch. 10	Quiz 2
11	M 4/1	Polysynthesis and incorporation	Haspelmath, Ch. 11	Assignment 5 due
	W 4/3			
	F 4/5			
12	M 4/8	Frequency effects	Haspelmath Ch. 12	
	W 4/10		[Bybee]	
	F 4/12			Assignment 6 due
13	W 4/17	Morphoprosody	[Hurch]	
	Th 4/18			
	F 4/19			
14	M 4/22	Morphological change	[Kiparsky]	Assignment 7 due
	W 4/24		[Aronoff 2]	
	F 4/26	Patterns	[Dasgupta]	
15	M 4/29	Review and classroom exercises		
	W 5/1			Assignment 8 due
Date TBA		<b>Final exam</b>		

## Bibliography

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