Morphology: Course information and policies

Contact information:	Jennifer Smith, 309 Smith Building
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Office hours:	Tu 1:00-3:00 and by appointment
Class meets:	MWF 1:00-1:50, Dey 304
Readings:	Distributed in class and online; see course web site for information
Course web site:	http://www.unc.edu/~jlsmith/ling527.html
	• See the web site for announcements, relevant links, and a detailed course syllabus (updated after every class).

I. Overview

This course is concerned with questions like the following:

- What is a **word**? How do we identify words cross-linguistically?
- What is an **affix**? What types of affixes are there?
- What is the cross-linguistic **typology** of morphological processes?
- What is the relationship between **morphology and phonology**?
- What is the relationship between **morphology and syntax**?
- What is the nature of the **mental lexicon**?
    - Do morphological operations take place there?
    - Are morphologically complex forms stored there?

We will address these questions by reading and discussing primary research papers in morphology and related areas, and by applying proposals in the research literature to additional language data.

Most weeks, readings will be discussed on Monday and Wednesday, and students will lead presentations of morphological data from a range of languages and language families on Friday.

This is a seminar-style course, so much of the emphasis is on preparing and discussing reading assignments, in-class presentations, and the final research paper.

II. Course objectives

Course objectives are to develop:

- basic morphological knowledge: terms, concepts, analysis methods
- skills in reading, interpreting, and evaluating descriptive grammars
- skills in reading, interpreting, and evaluating linguistics research papers
- skills in using morphological databases and corpora
- skills in developing a paper topic and drafting and revising a paper

III. Prerequisites

The prerequisite for this course is Ling 101, Introduction to Language, or the equivalent. An additional course in syntax or phonology is recommended (but not mandatory).

IV. Course requirements

Final grades for the course will be calculated as follows:

A. Pass-fail component

Reading reactions	• for all readings unless otherwise stated
Homework assignments	• just a small number
Pop quizzes??	• only if necessary

B. Graded component

Attendance and participation	5%	
Data presentation	20%	
Take-home midterm	25%	*(updated 2/29/12)*
Final paper	50%	(proposal *10%* | first draft *15%* | final paper 25%)

C. Final grade calculation

You will receive a grade for the course as determined by the 'graded component' *unless* your %passed for the 'pass-fail component' is lower than the specified threshold. In that case, your course grade will be one letter-grade lower than your 'graded component' score.

Graded component	*Pass-fail threshold*
A or A–	90% passed
B+, B, or B–	80% passed
C+, C, or C–	70% passed
D+ or D	60% passed

❖ Attendance and participation

- You are expected to attend class, complete readings and assignments on time, and participate in class activities and discussion. Assume that you will be called on!
- Multiple absences will make it difficult for you to keep up in this course and will lower your participation grade (unless the absences are due to illness or other unavoidable events, in which case it is your responsibility to provide documentation).
- If you have to miss class, it is your responsibility to collect any missed materials or notes; check the "Daily syllabus" web page to see what you are responsible for.

❖ Reading reactions

For every reading (unless otherwise stated), a reading reaction is due **by 10:00am** on the due date.

- Each reading will come with discussion questions. A RR is your answer to one of the discussion questions. (Certain discussion questions may be marked "not for RR," though.)
- Please submit your RR as an "Assignment" on Sakai.
  - In case of emergency, submit directly to me by e-mail (`jlsmith@email.unc.edu`).
- RRs are graded pass/fail. To pass, a RR must show a legitimate attempt to answer the selected discussion question based on the reading and/or previously covered course material. It must be written in a way that is coherent and understandable. It must be received on time. I reserve the right to assign "half-pass" scores if applicable.
  - If you have a burning question or a request for a discussion topic for that day's class, you're welcome to add that too. Please *mark it clearly* as such. I will be reading fast!
- Bring your RR to class, because you may need it for class discussion.

❖ Homework assignments

There will be at least one data-analysis homework assignment, but probably not very many.

- Homework assignments are graded pass/fail. To pass, a HW must show a legitimate

attempt to address the question posed on the basis of the course material.

❖ Readings and discussion questions — and pop quizzes??
  • Although you only need to turn in the answer to one discussion question for your RR, you are responsible for preparing answers to all of the discussion questions.
  • Class discussions will not go through the readings point-by-point; they will focus on the topics raised in the discussion questions. (Bring your reading notes to class.)
  • If I get the sense that students are not preparing answers to the discussion questions, I reserve the right to give pop quizzes. These will easy for people who have prepared the discussion questions. Any pop quizzes given will be graded pass/fail.

❖ Data presentation
You will work in a group of three or four to give a data presentation once during the semester.
  • Find a descriptive grammar of a language you do not already know.
  • Prepare a presentation that summarizes the morphological patterns of the language and relates that data to aspects of morphological theory that have been discussed in class.

❖ Take-home midterm exam
The midterm exam will be assigned in March (exact date TBA). It will involve the application of morphological theory to data from a language that we have not previously discussed.

❖ Final paper
More detailed information and due dates will be provided later in the semester, but the basic requirements are as follows. Papers may be written in partner pairs.
  • Topic proposal, with specific research question and discussion of relevant references
  • First draft of paper — complete, but ready for critique
  • Final version of paper, taking feedback from first drafts into account

V. Course policies

A. Collaboration/citation policy
  • You are encouraged to discuss assignments and readings with other students in the class. However, every student or partner group must write up assignments independently.
  • If you consult any materials other than course readings, handouts, the course web pages, or in-class notes for an assignment, you are required to list such references. Note that even assigned course readings must be cited if used in the data presentation or the final paper.
  • Remember that the UNC Honor Code is in effect at all times.

B. Late assignment policy
As a general rule, no late assignments will be accepted for credit. Exceptions may sometimes be made in extreme circumstances; your chances are best if you contact me in advance.

Please remember that the Honor Code of the university, which prohibits giving or receiving unauthorized aid on course work, is in effect in this course.

See the full text of the Honor Code online at: http://instrument.unc.edu/

If you have any questions about what constitutes acceptable collaboration or acceptable use of reference material on assignments, please feel free to talk with me at any time.