

Morphology and the Mind
LING 4371/5370
Spring 2023
M/W 1:30 – 2:50, C304 Classroom Building

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Office hours: M/W 12 –1; by appt.

Course Description

In this course we will explore morphological theory as well as empirical studies that aim to understand the nature of the lexicon and how morphological information is processed.

Course Objectives

The goals of this course are to gain an understanding of how morphology functions in various languages and how we can use the scientific method to understand the nature of the lexicon. Students will learn about a variety of experimental methods to test hypotheses pertaining to how morphological structure is processed in the brain. Additionally, students will become more comfortable reading both theoretical and experimental works.

Required Reading

Understanding Morphology, 2nd edition, Haspelmath, M. & Sims, A. (2013) Routledge

All readings listed on the syllabus will be made available on Blackboard

Graded Work

| <u>Undergraduate</u> | <u>Graduate</u> |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| Participation 25% | Participation 25% |
| Homeworks 30% | Homeworks 20% |
| Presentation 15% | Presentation 20% |
| Final paper 30% | Final paper 35% |

Grading

Course grades are simply a math equation with the above weights applied to your scores. Grades are rounded according to typical math conventions (0.5 goes up, 0.49 does not). The following letter grades scale is applied.

| | |
|-------------|-----------|
| A 90 – 100% | F 0 – 59% |
| B 80 – 89% | |
| C 70 – 79% | |
| D 60 – 69% | |

Participation

Students are expected to do the assigned readings before class and be ready to ask and answer questions and to participate in any in-class activities and discussions. For full points, students should attend class regularly and demonstrate that their presence positively contributes to the class.

Homeworks

Homework assignments will be short answer questions meant to check students' understanding of the course materials. Assignments will be posted to Blackboard, and .docx or .pdf files will be uploaded for submission. There is a one-week grace period beyond the due date for an assignment, but after that no late work will be accepted. Students requesting an extension must do so before the due date (not during the grace period). **Note** that the grace period applies to homework only, not the presentation or final paper.

Presentation

All students will present an empirical research paper. Undergraduate students will do this in 2-person partners, graduate students will do this individually. Specific instructions will be provided.

Final Paper

All students will write a final paper summarizing empirical studies. Undergraduate students will select a topic (e.g., inflection) and write a paper that incorporates at least 2 studies. Graduate students will write a paper summarizing either native or non-native processing of morphology (i.e., various topics will be incorporated into the summary). Specific guidelines will be provided.

Technology Tools Required

- Students should have a working UTEP email account that can be accessed on a regular basis
- Students should have regular access to Blackboard. Course materials will be provided via Blackboard (quizzes, homeworks, reading materials, lecture PPTs).
 - To access Blackboard, go to my.utep.edu and login with your credentials.

Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty ("cheating") is prohibited and is considered a violation of the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures. Such behavior will not be tolerated. It includes, but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, and collusion. Cheating may involve copying from or providing information to another student, possessing unauthorized materials during a test, or falsifying research data on reports or papers. Plagiarism occurs when someone intentionally or knowingly represents the words or ideas of another person as one's own. Collusion involves collaborating with another person to commit any academically dishonest act.

Academic dishonesty violates the basic integrity and meaning of a University as an institution of learning. Cheating, plagiarism, and collusion in dishonest activities are serious acts which erode the University's educational and research roles and cheapen the learning experience not only for the perpetrators, but also for the entire community. It is expected that UTEP students will understand and subscribe to the ideal of academic integrity and that they will be willing to bear

individual responsibility for their work. Materials (written or otherwise) submitted to fulfill academic requirements must represent a student's own efforts.

Any act of academic dishonesty attempted by a UTEP student is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. All suspected violations of academic integrity at The University of Texas at El Paso must be reported to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution (OSCCR) for possible disciplinary action. To learn more, please visit [HOOP: Student Conduct and Discipline](#).

Accommodations Policy

The University is committed to providing reasonable accommodations and auxiliary services to students, staff, faculty, job applicants, applicants for admissions, and other beneficiaries of University programs, services and activities with documented disabilities in order to provide them with equal opportunities to participate in programs, services, and activities in compliance with sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 and the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA) of 2008. Reasonable accommodations will be made unless it is determined that doing so would cause undue hardship on the University. Students requesting an accommodation based on a disability must register with the [UTEP Center for Accommodations and Support Services](#) (CASS). Contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services at 915-747-5148, or email them at cass@utep.edu, or apply for accommodations online via the [CASS portal](#).

Schedule (subject to change)

| Date | Topic | Reading | Homework |
|------|------------------------------|---|---------------|
| 1/18 | Introduction & Overview | | |
| 1/23 | Core concepts in morphology | H & S Ch. 1 | |
| 1/25 | The lexicon | H & S Ch. 4 | |
| 1/30 | What is a word? | | |
| 2/1 | Morphological units | | HW 1 assigned |
| 2/6 | Rules | H & S Ch. 3 | |
| 2/8 | Derivation | H & S Ch. 5 | HW 1 due |
| 2/13 | Inflection | | HW 2 assigned |
| 2/15 | Compounding | | |
| 2/20 | Morpho-Phonology Interface | H & S Ch. 10 | HW 2 due |
| 2/22 | Morpho-Phonology Interface | | |
| 2/27 | Morphology datasets | | HW 3 assigned |
| 3/1 | Morphology datasets | | |
| 3/6 | Acquisition of morphology | | HW 3 due |
| 3/8 | (catch up day); pick paper | | |
| 3/13 | NO CLASS- SPRING BREAK | | |
| 3/15 | NO CLASS- SPRING BREAK | | |
| 3/20 | How to read a research paper | | |
| 3/22 | Decomposition and priming | | |
| 3/27 | Priming | Holcomb & Grainger 2006 | |
| 3/29 | Inflection-L1 | Stockall & Marantz 2006 | |
| 4/3 | Inflection-L2 | Neubauer & Clahsen 2009 | |
| 4/5 | Inflection-L2 | Coughlin et al. 2019 | |
| 4/10 | Derivation-L1 | Leminen et al 2013 | |
| 4/12 | Derivation-L2 | Silva & Clahsen 2008 | |
| 4/17 | Compounding-L1 | Fiorentino & Poepple 2007 | |
| 4/19 | Compounding-L2 | Li, Jiang, & Gor 2015 | |
| 4/24 | Sentence processing | | |
| 4/26 | Morphosyntax -L1 & L2 | Alemán Bañón, Fiorentino, Gabriele 2014 | |
| 5/1 | Morphosyntax-L2 | Keating 2009 | |
| 5/3 | Wrap-up | | |