

LING 21000 Morphology

Spring 2015

Instructor:

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Teaching assistants:

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Meeting times and venues

Lectures: MWF 11:30-12:20, Wieboldt 103

TA sections: Fridays 1:30-2:20 or 2:30-3:20, Harper 141

Course description

This course is an introduction to natural language morphology, the study of word structure. Looking at data from a wide range of languages, we will consider the nature of the elements out of which words are built and the principles that govern their combination. The interplay of word structure with syntax, semantics, and phonology will be examined. We will think critically about the concepts of morpheme, inflection, derivation, and indeed, the concept of word itself. We will consider different perspectives, ranging from both descriptive and theoretical views, as well as quantitative and computational approaches.

Pre-requisites

LING 20001 “Introduction to Linguistics” or equivalent

Textbook and resources

Required textbook: Martin Haspelmath and Andrea D. Sims. 2010. *Understanding Morphology*. 2nd edition. Routledge.

Assignments and supplementary readings/handouts are available on the Chalk site:

<http://chalk.uchicago.edu>

Evaluation

Attendance and participation*	10%
Assignments (eight in total)#	70%
Mid-term	20%

*Attendance at *all* TA sections is compulsory. For lectures, you are required to attend at least 85% of them – as recorded by the “checkpoints.”

#Assignments 1, 2, 3, and 4 are due on Mondays of weeks 2, 3, 4, and 5. Assignments 5, 6, 7, and 8 are due on Wednesdays of weeks 7, 8, 9, and 10. The final assignment weighs more than the other seven.

Schedule (subject to change)

H&S = the course textbook by Haspelmath and Sims
Other readings are available on Chalk.

Week	Topic	Readings
1	Course overview; basic concepts	H&S chapters 1 and 2 Chomsky (1957, ch.6)
2	Representations and units of analysis	H&S chapters 4, 9
3	Inflection, derivation, and compounding	H&S chapters 5, 7
4	Morphological paradigms	H&S chapter 8
5	Theoretical issues	H&S chapter 3
Mid-term on Wednesday May 6th in week 6		
6	Morphology and its interfaces I	H&S chapter 10
7	Morphology and its interfaces II	H&S chapter 11
8	Productivity and frequency effects	H&S chapters 6, 12
9	Computational morphology	Goldsmith (2010)
10	(wrap-up)	N/A

Readings

Chomsky, Noam. 1957. *Syntactic Structures*. [chapter 6: On the goals of linguistic theory]

Goldsmith, John. 2010. Segmentation and morphology. In Alexander Clark, Chris Fox, and Shalom Lappin (eds), *Handbook of Computational Linguistics and Natural Language Processing*, pp. 364-393. Wiley-Blackwell.