

PHI 80286 / 80786

Words and Word Formation: Introduction to Morphology

Syllabus

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| Instructor | Christina Bjorndahl, Doherty Hall 4304, cbjorn@andrew.cmu.edu |
| Time & Place | Mondays & Wednesdays, 10:30 - 11:50; Baker Hall 235A |
| Office hours | Fridays 12:00 - 2:00 |
| Course website | http://www.andrew.cmu.edu/user/cbjorn/PHIL286Morphology.html http://www.cmu.edu/blackboard/ (<i>grades and supplemental readings</i>) |

1 Course description

How many words do you know? Is ‘gonna’ one word or two? How many meanings does ‘unlockable’ have? If someone can be ‘inept’, why can’t they be ‘ept’? In this course we study the linguistics of words and word formation, known as morphology. We begin by asking what a word is, about the internal structure of words, and how new words are formed. Throughout, we will consider these questions from a cross-linguistic perspective, looking at morphological data from a wide range of languages. We will also consider how morphology interacts with other subfields of linguistics, including phonology, syntax and semantics. Finally, we will survey morphological questions from the perspectives of language acquisition, psychology, and cognitive science.

2 Course materials and resources

Textbook Haspelmath & Sims, *Understanding Morphology*, 2nd edition

The textbook (required) is available at the CMU bookstore. There are significant differences between the first and second edition, so it is strongly recommended that you obtain the second edition.

Course website & Blackboard The course website will function as an course schedule, and it is where you should go first for all course content and announcements; Blackboard will be used as a distribution site, where I will make available supplemental readings and assignments, as well as grades.

IPA transcription If you choose to type your problem sets, you will need to typeset IPA characters, for which I recommend <http://ipa.typeit.org/> (very easy to use). If you use L^AT_EX come talk to me about packages you will need.

3 Academic integrity

All students are expected to adhere to the CMU code of academic integrity, which can be found here: <http://www.cmu.edu/academic-integrity/>. Violations of the code will be treated very seriously. If you are in doubt about what constitutes a violation, ask!

4 Evaluation

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| Problem sets | 40% (6 problem sets) |
| Midterm | 20% |
| Final exam | 30% |
| Good citizenship | 10% |

4.1 Problem sets

Problem set questions will be assessed for (1) correctness / reasonableness (for open-ended questions) and (2) clarity of presentation. You do not need to be verbose (bullet points are fine and even encouraged!), but you need to write in such a way that a reader who is not intimately familiar with the data can follow your analysis and argumentation.

Problem sets may be either typed or handwritten, but regardless must be neat and legible. *I reserve the right to not grade anything that I cannot read easily, and to dock up to 10% for sloppy assignments.* Please staple your assignments and make sure your name and student ID are on every page.

Problem set due dates: These are also listed on the website.

1. Wednesday, September 16, 2015
2. Wednesday, September 30, 2015
3. Wednesday, October 14, 2015
4. Wednesday, November 4, 2015
5. Wednesday, November 18, 2015
6. Wednesday, December 2, 2015

Graduate problems Each problem set will have 1-2 additional problems for graduate students. Undergraduates are not required to do these problems, but are welcome to try them for fun!

Working with others You are permitted, and in fact encouraged, to discuss the problem sets with others, but you must write them up by yourself. If you work with anyone else, you must indicate who you worked with on the first page of the assignment.

Late submissions Assignments are due at the beginning of class on the posted due date, and in general late submissions will not be accepted (exceptional circumstances should be discussed with me *prior* to the due date). Assignments will typically be returned and discussed in the following class, and no assignments can be submitted after this, regardless of circumstance.

4.2 Midterm: Wednesday, October 21, 2015

There will be one midterm, lasting 60 minutes, which will be administered at the beginning of class; if you arrive late you will not receive extra time. There will be a midterm review on Monday, October 19, 2015, during class.

4.3 Good citizenship and communication

The expectation is that you will be a good class citizen, meaning you are expected to engage with the material and the class. Doing so entails attending class, doing the readings, participating with questions or comments in discussions and attempting to answer questions I ask in class, as well as refraining from improper use of computers/tables/smart phones during class. If you fall behind or are confused, you should make arrangements to get caught up before the last minute.

Please note that while I'm happy to answer short, procedural questions by email, I will not answer content questions (i.e., explaining a concept) by email. I typically respond to email within one *business* day, and do not guarantee that I will check email evenings or weekends.

5 Life happens

Please come see me as soon as you know of circumstances that will impact your performance in the course, including but not limited to religious holidays, class excursions, zombie attacks, interviews, sickness, bereavement, depression, extreme stress, etc. The degree to which I accommodate you is proportional to how much notice you give me (taking into consideration how much notice it was possible to give).

CMU provides many resources for students with disabilities, and I am happy to make whatever accommodations are required in cooperation with the *Equal Opportunity Services (EOS)* office. For information, please visit <https://www.studentaffairs.cmu.edu/first-year/orientation/disabilities.html>.