

Morphology

Linguistics 5334
Spring 2020

General Information

Instructor: Joey Sabbagh
Email: sabbagh@uta.edu

Class Time & Location: T, Th, 12:30PM-1:50,
TH 118
Office Hours: (tentative) Monday 11-12

Course Overview

This course is an introduction to the study of the internal structure of words, providing an overview of contemporary morphological theory and analysis. Topics include a survey of word formation processes (such as affixation, reduplication, among others); the interface between word structure and other components of grammar, such as sound structure (phonology) and sentence structure (syntax); and the reality of morphological categories such as “morpheme”.

Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of the course, students will have (i) familiarity of major (and common) morphological processes found throughout languages of the world; (ii) ability to carry out morphological analysis of unfamiliar languages; and (iii) a firm grasp of theoretical issues relating to morphological phenomenon within the context of generative grammatical theory.

Pertaining to the last point, students will be able to coherently address and cite evidence to support their answers to the following questions:

1. What is a word? Is ‘word’ a coherent notion, and if so, how can it be defined? What is the status of words within the speaker’s mental grammar?
2. Are complex words formed by combining atomic units (morphemes) into hierarchical structures, or by applying functions (word formation rules, or WFRs) which map one word or stem to another? What does our theory of word building tell us about the content and organization of the lexicon?
3. Where does morphology “fit” into the grammar? Languages clearly have phonological principles (rules governing the combining of features into segments, segments into syllables, etc.), as well as syntactic principles (rules governing the combining of words into larger constituents). But are there independent principles of morphology—and hence a separate morphology component in the grammar? Or do generalizations about words and the structure of the lexicon reduce to principles of phonology and syntax?

Topics Covered

What follows is a list of topics to be covered this semester. While the first few weeks and set of topics are more or less fixed (as they will set up the basics), please note that this schedule is subject to change at some point based on the interest of the class, to be determined on the basis of our class discussions and the interests expressed therein. The topics listed below will be interweaved with lengthy in class problem sets that we will work on as a group.

WEEK 1-4: Introduction to basic concepts: (i) *The domain of inquiry*; (ii) *Morphological analysis (segmentation)*; (iii) *Word internal structure*; (iv) *Morphological processes (beyond affixation)*; (v) *Inflectional and Derivational Morphology*; (vi) *Theoretical approaches*; (vii) *The substance of the lexicon*.

WEEK 5-8: Distributed Morphology: (i) *Organization of grammar*; (ii) *Word formation and the interface with phonology and syntax*; (iii) *Realization rules, null-morphemes, and the elsewhere principle*.

WEEK 9-13: Various topics: (i) *The reality of paradigms/Paradigm Uniformity*; (ii) *Morphological blocking/Poser blocking*; (iii) *Incorporation*; (iv) *Case and agreement*.

WEEK 14-15: Presentations.

Course Requirements–Assignments and Readings

There will be occasional assignments (about 5-6) exercises assigned as homework at various points throughout the semester. In addition, there will be a final paper and associated presentation of the final paper. There will also be a few readings assigned throughout the semester, which will in general be related to the material discussed in class, but which may also be related to questions that come up in class as we move along. Readings will be available on Canvas.

- Problem sets (60%)
- Final assignment (20%)
- Final presentation (20%)

University Policies

Drop Policy: Students may drop or swap (adding and dropping a class concurrently) classes through self-service in MyMav from the beginning of the registration period through the late registration period. After the late registration period, students must see their academic advisor to drop a class or withdraw. Undeclared students must see an advisor in the University Advising Center. Drops can continue through a point two-thirds of the way through the term or session. It is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw if they do not plan to attend after registering. Students will not be automatically dropped for non-attendance. Repayment of certain types of financial aid administered through the University may be required as the result of dropping classes or withdrawing. For more information, contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships (<http://www.uta.edu/aao/fao/>).

Disability Accommodations: UT Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of all federal equal opportunity legislation, including The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), The Americans with Disabilities Amendments Act (ADAAA), and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. All instructors at UT Arlington are required by law to provide “reasonable accommodations” to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of disability. Students are responsible for providing the instructor with official notification in the form of a letter certified by the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD). Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Students experiencing a range of conditions (Physical, Learning, Chronic Health, Mental Health, and Sensory) that may cause diminished academic performance or other barriers to learning may seek services and/or accommodations by contacting: The Office for Students with Disabilities, (OSD) www.uta.edu/disability or calling 817-272-3364. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at www.uta.edu/disability.

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) www.uta.edu/caps/ or calling 817-272-3671 is also available to all students to help increase their understanding of personal issues, address mental and behavioral health problems and make positive changes in their lives.

Non-Discrimination Policy: The University of Texas at Arlington does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation, disabilities, genetic information, and/or veteran status in its educational programs or activities it operates. For more information, visit uta.edu/eos.

Title IX: The University of Texas at Arlington (“University”) is committed to maintaining a learning and working environment that is free from discrimination based on sex in accordance with Title IX of the Higher Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in educational programs or activities; Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VII), which prohibits sex discrimination in employment; and the Campus Sexual Violence Elimination Act (SaVE Act). Sexual misconduct is a form of sex discrimination and will not be tolerated. For information regarding Title IX, visit www.uta.edu/titleIX or contact Ms. Jean Hood, Vice President and Title IX Coordinator at (817) 272-7091 or jmhood@uta.edu.

Academic Integrity: Students enrolled all UT Arlington courses are expected to adhere to the UT Arlington Honor Code:

I pledge, on my honor, to uphold UT Arlington’s tradition of academic integrity, a tradition that values hard work and honest effort in the pursuit of academic excellence. I promise that I will submit only work that I personally create or contribute to group collaborations, and I will appropriately reference any work from other sources. I will follow the highest standards of integrity and uphold the spirit of the Honor Code.

UT Arlington faculty members may employ the Honor Code as they see fit in their courses, including (but not limited to) having students acknowledge the honor code as part of an examination or requiring students to incorporate the honor code into any work submitted. Per UT System Regents’ Rule 50101, Section 2.2, suspected violations of university’s standards for academic integrity (including the Honor Code) will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Violators will be disciplined in accordance with University policy, which may result in the student’s suspension or expulsion from the University.

Electronic Communication: UT Arlington has adopted MavMail as its official means to communicate with students about important deadlines and events, as well as to transact university-related business regarding financial aid, tuition, grades, graduation, etc. All students are assigned a Mav-Mail account and are responsible for checking the inbox regularly. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, which remains active even after graduation. Information about activating and using MavMail is available at <http://www.uta.edu/oit/cs/email/mavmail.php>.

Campus Carry: Effective August 1, 2016, the Campus Carry law (Senate Bill 11) allows those licensed individuals to carry a concealed handgun in buildings on public university campuses, except in locations the University establishes as prohibited. Under the new law, openly carrying handguns is not allowed on college campuses. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/news/info/campus-carry/>

Student Feedback Survey: At the end of each term, students enrolled in classes categorized as “lecture,” “seminar,” or “laboratory” shall be directed to complete an online Student Feedback Survey (SFS). Instructions on how to access the SFS for this course will be sent directly to each student through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. Each student’s feedback enters the SFS database anonymously and is aggregated with that of other students enrolled in the course. UT Arlington’s effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback is required by state law; students are strongly urged to participate. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/sfs>.

Final Review Week: A period of five class days prior to the first day of final examinations in the long sessions shall be designated as Final Review Week. The purpose of this week is to allow students sufficient time to prepare for final examinations. During this week, there shall be no scheduled activities such as required field trips or performances; and no instructor shall assign any themes, research problems or exercises of similar scope that have a completion date during or following this week unless specified in the class syllabus. During Final Review Week, an instructor shall not give any examinations constituting 10% or more of the final grade, except makeup tests and laboratory examinations. In addition, no instructor shall give any portion of the final examination during Final Review Week. During this week, classes are held as scheduled. In addition, instructors are not required to limit content to topics that have been previously covered; they may introduce new concepts as appropriate.

Emergency Exit Procedures: Should we experience an emergency event that requires us to vacate the building, students should exit the room and move toward the nearest exit. When exiting the building during an emergency, one should never take an elevator but should use the stairwells. Faculty members and instructional staff will assist students in selecting the safest route for evacuation and will make arrangements to assist individuals with disabilities.

Student Support Services: UT Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. Resources include tutoring, major-based learning centers, developmental education, advising and mentoring, personal counseling, and federally funded programs. For individualized referrals, students may visit the reception desk at University College (Ransom Hall), call the Maverick Resource Hotline at 817-272-6107, send a message to resources@uta.edu, or view the information at: <http://www.uta.edu/universitycollege/resources/index.php>.