

Fall 2009

Brandeis University

Linguistics 115a

Morphology

Sample Course Information and Syllabus

Lecture: MW 2:10-3:30pm
[Block K]

Instructor: Lotus Goldberg
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Office Hours:

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

This course explores the internal structure of words, and the theoretical approaches which aim to account for these patterns. Topics include the nature of the lexicon and lexical entries, word headedness, argument structure and other issues in morphosyntax, derivational and inflectional morphology, compounds, morphophonology, and processes not common in Indo-European such as infixing, reduplication, and Semitic root-and-pattern morphology.

The prerequisite for taking this course is Linguistics 100a, Introduction to Linguistics.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Course Component	Percent of Final Grade
Average of Homeworks	40%
Midterm Exam	15%
Take-Home Final Exam	20%
Term Paper	25%
Final Course Grade	100%

TEXTBOOK (Supplemental readings will be posted on Latte.)

Aronoff, Mark and Kirsten Fudeman (2005) *What is Morphology?*, Blackwell Publishing.

POLICIES

- In-depth problem set homework assignments will be due roughly every other week, written up as a full prose essay. Please see the guidelines for writing assigned work handout as well as for more details.
- Late work is not accepted. You should get in touch with me *before the due date* if you cannot get something in on time.
- You are responsible for ALL lecture content, even if you come in late or miss a class. It is your responsibility to copy another student's notes from any (part of a) class that you miss.

- Regular attendance and active participation are required. Your final grade may be lowered by 5% for failure to attend and/or participate regularly.
- If you are a student with a documented disability on record at Brandeis University and wish to have a reasonable accommodation made for you in this class, please see me immediately.
- You are encouraged to work on homeworks together, but you must plan out and write up your answer entirely on your own and all in your own words. You are expected to be honest in all of your academic work. The University policy on academic honesty is distributed annually as section 4 of the *Rights and Responsibilities* handbook. Instances of alleged dishonesty will be forwarded to the Office of Campus Life for possible referral to the Student Judicial System. Potential sanctions include failure in the course and suspension from the University. If you have any questions about my expectations, please ask.

Syllabus (to be updated as needed):

Week of Course	Topics	Work Due
1:	Introduction to Morphology, criteria for being a word	Homework 1 due Wed
2:	The lexicon and lexical entries, word headedness	
3:	Morphology and phonology: allomorphs and morphemes	Homework 2 due Wed
4:	Morphology and phonology: level ordering, rule-based vs. morpheme-based approaches to morphology	
5:	Morphology and phonology: the notion of the morphological cycle	Homework 3 due Wed
6:	Interesting phenomena: infixation and reduplication	
7:	Interesting phenomena: Semitic templatic morphology	In-class Midterm Wed
8:	Interesting phenomena: compounding	
9:	Morphology and syntax overview: argument structure and beyond	Homework 4 due Wed
10:	Morphology and syntax: incorporation, passive, causativization, and other valency-changing operations	
11:	Morphology and syntax: polysynthetic languages	Homework 5 due Wed
12:	Morphology and syntax: inflectional morphology in agglutinating languages	
13:	Course Wrap-up: what is a morpheme?	Take-home Final due Wed
TERM PAPER: due December xx, 2009, 5:00pm		