
Morphology

M/W/F: 2PM–2:50PM

Education Building (ED), room 4008

TEACHING STAFF

Instructor	Suzana Fong
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Website	https://sznfng.github.io/

OFFICE HOURS

When	Mondays, 3:15PM to 5:15PM Wednesdays, 3:15PM to 5:15PM (or by appointment)
Where	Science Building (SN), room 3046

- Office hours will start on Monday, September 9, 2024.
- Office hours will not be held on holidays.

APPOINTMENTS

- Please send me an [e-mail](#) to schedule a meeting outside of my office hours.
- If possible, contact me at least 24h before your intended meeting time.
- If you would like to schedule a Zoom meeting, please choose a time that does **not** coincide with my in-person office hours.

DESCRIPTION OF THE COURSE

How do we know that *anti-dis-establish-ment-arian-ism* is a possible word in English, but **arian-ism-establish-anti-dis-ment* is not? Both words are composed of the same elements (i.e. *anti*, *dis*, *establish*, etc) and yet only one of these strings is grammatical.

This course is an exploration of how the grammar can put smaller units together in order to build more complex structures. The rules of such a grammar underlie the speaker's or signer's intuition about which words are well-formed and which are not.

More specifically, we will explore answers to questions such as the following:

- What is the nature of the knowledge that allows speakers/signers to tell which words are well-formed and which are not?
- What is the nature of the units that compose each word?
- What are the processes responsible for building a word? What rules regulate them?
- How do languages vary with respect to the range of word formation processes available to them?
- What is the relationship and division of labor between Morphology and other components of the grammar such as Syntax and Phonology?

GOALS AND SKILLS TO BE DEVELOPED

This course is divided into two parts:

- **Empirical:** analysis of a range of morphological phenomena across languages
- **Theoretical:** study of a particular theory of grammatical architecture called *Distributed Morphology*.

In this course, you will:

- Get acquainted with what morphological units look like across different languages and the rules employed by them to form complex words
- Hone your analytical skills through in-class exercises and homework assignments
- Get acquainted with a particular theory of how the grammar is organized and how it models our ability to build and interpret a potentially infinite number of words
- Gain proficiency in reading peer-reviewed scientific papers in linguistics
- Gain experience gathering and analyzing data from a language that is unfamiliar to you

ACCESSIBILITY

- Accommodations for students with disabilities are provided in accordance with the [Accommodations for Students with Disabilities Policy](#) and its related procedures.
- Students who feel that they may require formal academic accommodations to address barriers or challenges they are experiencing related to their learning are encouraged to contact [Accessibility Services \(Blundon Centre\)](#) at the earliest opportunity to ensure any required accommodations are provided in a timely manner.
- You can contact Accessibility Services (Blundon Centre) by emailing blundon@mun.ca.
- You can also contact the instructor of this course in person or via e-mail. Otherwise, you can make an anonymous request through this form: <https://forms.gle/mxH8jyB8jF5RwhJL7>. I receive a notification whenever this form is filled, so I will address your concern/request as soon as possible.

ASSESSMENT

Homework assignments	45%
Final paper	55%

HOMEWORK

- Following the topics discussed in class, a corresponding homework assignment will be posted on Brightspace (see *Schedule* below).
- Students will have one week to submit their solutions (see *Schedule* below).
- There will be a total of five homework assignments.
- Each homework assignment will be worth *around* 20 points, totaling 100+ points—some assignments will have extra points. This is worth 45% of your final grade.
- **Late submission:** if you need an extension, please *send me an e-mail in advance* specifying when you will be able to submit your assignment.

FINAL PAPER: GRAMMAR SKETCH AND ANALYSIS

- In this course, you will get practice working with a consultant of a language you are unfamiliar with, focusing on its morphological properties.
- This project has different subcomponents, which will be completed at different points of the semester.
- The main subcomponents are:
 - Find a consultant to work with who speaks or signs a language you are unfamiliar with—it can be a colleague at MUN
 - Elicit a prespecified set of words
 - Elicit a prespecified set of sentences
 - Along with the instructor, choose a subset of the data elicited to analyze
 - Analyze these data following a Distributed Morphology framework
 - Informal in-class discussion (short handout required)
 - Final paper
- Each subcomponent is worth a percentage of 100 points. Your grade is the sum of the points assigned to each subcomponent and it is worth 55% of your final grade.
- Please see detailed instructions for the subcomponents of the final paper and respective deadlines on a file to be posted on Brightspace.
- Some dates are added in the Schedule below, identifiable with the symbol ‘Q.’

PARTICIPATION

- Active participation of the students is built into my lectures and lecture materials. Your engagement is, thus vital, to the success of this course.
- Nonetheless, there is no participation grade in this course, in acknowledgment of the fact that students engage in the lectures in different ways.
- I do ask students to refrain from doing activities that do not pertain to the course as a whole or to a given lecture (e.g. doing assignments from another course or, indeed, from this course, endlessly scrolling on your phone/laptop, etc).

USE OF ELECTRONIC DEVICES

- Feel free to use an electronic device such as a laptop or a tablet to e.g. take notes or look at lecture materials at your own pace.
- The classroom is large, so there should be enough space if you would like not to sit behind a laptop screen.

READINGS

- There is no required textbook for this course. We will read some chapters from [Harley \(2006\)](#) and from [Booij \(2005\)](#). Other readings will come from other textbooks, overview books, and peer-reviewed journal articles.
- All readings will be freely available on Brightspace.
- Slides and handouts will also be posted in advance in case you would like to use them to prepare for the lectures.
- I recommend doing the readings prior to the lecture they are associated with.
- Some of the readings in the second part of the course (the *Distributed Morphology* part) are advanced. In this case, it may work better for you to use the lectures as background to assist you in the reading.

SCHEDULE

- The schedule below follows the [University Calendar](#). If you need accommodations for e.g. medical or religious reasons, please let me know.
- The schedule is subject to minor adjustments, depending on how much time we spend on each topic—this can vary from cohort to cohort. Please check weekly announcements on Brightspace.
- Below, ‘(continued)’ denotes that the topic listed in the previous lecture is taken up again.

	DATE	TOPIC & READINGS	HOMEWORK
W	Sept 4	Introduction to Morphology, the morpheme, & morphological analysis 📖 “What is a word?” (Harley, 2006 : chapter 1) 📖 “Identifying morphemes” (Fromkin et al., 2007 : pp. 61–65)	
F	Sept 6	(continued)	
M	Sept 9	Word formation vs. inflection & derivational processes 📖 “Morphology: basic notions” (Booij, 2005 : chapter 1)	📅 Assignment #1 posted
W	Sept 11	(continued)	
F	Sept 13	The hierarchical structure of words, <i>part 1</i> 📖 “Affixal Syntax” (Harley, 2006 : §5.3, pp. 124–127)	
M	Sept 16	(continued)	📅 Assignment #1 due 📅 Assignment #2 posted
W	Sept 18	Compounding 📖 “Compounding” (Booij, 2005 : chapter 4)	🗨️ <i>Consultant info & plan</i>

F	Sept 20	<i>(continued)</i>	
M	Sept 23	Morphosyntax, <i>part 1</i> : inflection 📖 “Inflection” (Booij, 2005: chapter 5)	📅 Assignment #2 due
W	Sept 25	<i>(continued)</i>	
F	Sept 27	The form of morphemes: allomorphy vs. allophony 📖 “Allomorphy” (Harley, 2006: §5.5, pp. 130–136)	
M	Sept 30	<i>National Day for Truth and Reconciliation</i>	
W	Oct 2	<i>(continued)</i>	📅 Assignment #3 posted
F	Oct 4	The hierarchical structure of words, <i>part 2</i> amalgamation and the Mirror Principle 📖 Harley (2010) 📖 Optional reading: Harizanov & Gribanova (2019)	
M	Oct 7	<i>(continued)</i>	
W	Oct 9	<i>(continued)</i>	📅 Assignment #3 due 📅 Assignment #4 posted
F	Oct 11	Introduction to Distributed Morphology (DM) 📖 Bobaljik (2017)	
M	Oct 14	<i>Thanksgiving break</i>	
W	Oct 16	<i>(continued)</i>	📅 Assignment #4 due
F	Oct 18	<i>No lecture: NELS conference¹</i>	
M	Oct 21	<i>(continued)</i>	
W	Oct 23	Vocabulary Insertion and allomorphy in DM 📖 “Vocabulary Insertion: an introduction” (Embick, 2015: chapter 4)	
F	Oct 25	<i>(continued)</i>	📅 Assignment #5 posted
M	Oct 28	Morphosyntax, <i>part 2</i> : Case and Agreement (typology, the syntax of case and agreement, and the Syntax–Morphology interface) 📖 Schaefer & Anagnostopoulou (To Appear)	

¹To make up for this lecture, there will be one-to-one meetings (to be scheduled) for students to discuss the data they have elicited for the final project and to choose a topic for their final paper.

W	Oct 30	<i>(continued)</i>	
F	Nov 1	<i>(continued)</i>	📅 Assignment #5 due
M	Nov 4	Post-syntactic operations: fusion, fission, and deletion 📖 Embick (2015: appendix) 📖 Arregi & Nevins (2007)	
W	Nov 6	Post-syntactic operations: sprouting 📖 <i>Optional reading:</i> Choi & Harley (2019)	
F	Nov 8	<i>(continued)</i>	
M	Nov 11	<i>Remembrance Day</i>	
W	Nov 13	Case study: suppletion in Korean 📖 Chung (2009)	
F	Nov 15	<i>(continued)</i>	
M	Nov 18	<i>(continued)</i>	
W	Nov 20	Grammatical architecture and the directionality of contextual allomorphy 📖 Bobaljik (2000)	
F	Nov 22	<i>(continued)</i>	
M	Nov 25	Linguistic universals and suppletion in the form of comparatives and superlatives 📖 Bobaljik (2015) 📖 <i>Optional reading:</i> Bobaljik (2012)	
W	Nov 27	<i>(continued)</i>	
F	Nov 29	<i>(continued)</i>	
M	Dec 2		🗨️ <i>In-class discussion: final paper</i>
F	Dec 13		🗨️ <i>Final paper due</i>

GENERATIVE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

The submission of work that has been created by generative artificial intelligence (henceforth: AI) tools and presented as a student's original work is considered an academic offence in this course. Students may **not** use AI in any of the following ways:²

- Submitting an assignment presented as their own. This includes but is not limited to essays, research

²Adapted from: [CITL](#).

papers, computer code, and solutions to mathematical problem.

- Using AI as an aid to completing an assignment, such as paraphrasing from AI content.
- Submitting answers to any quiz, test, or exam question using AI solutions.

Students are **permitted** to use AI for learning activities and assessments and to assist in gaining a deeper understanding of the concepts. *You are requested to confirm instances of AI use in your submitted work.*

Example uses include:

- Creating an assignment outline.
- Generating and collecting ideas and information for a paper or creative work.
- Proofreading and grammar checking.
- Creating a reference list.
- Comparing one's work with AI generated output.
- Critiquing AI generated output.

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT AND PLAGIARISM

“Academic integrity means taking full responsibility for the academic work you submit for your courses, so that your professors can evaluate you on the basis of your own understanding and effort. It means being honest and honourable in all academic pursuits, even in difficult circumstances. Students are expected to know and avoid academic offences; ignorance of an offence is not an acceptable excuse for committing it. Penalties could include reprimand, reduction of grade, probation, suspension, or expulsion from the University” [[MUN Libraries](#)].

For more information, see MUN's regulations for [Academic Misconduct](#), specially §6.12.4.

LATE POLICIES

ABSENCES OF FEWER THAN FIVE DAYS

A student is, at times, prevented from completing a part of the evaluation by illness or medical conditions of less than five calendar days' duration. In such cases, a student may apply for an alternate evaluation by declaring to the relevant instructor that the student has experienced such an illness or medical condition. See procedures [here](#).

ABSENCES OF FIVE DAYS OR MORE

A student who is prevented from completing a part of the evaluation by illness of at least five calendar days' duration, bereavement or other acceptable cause, duly authenticated in writing, may apply for an alternate evaluation. See procedures [here](#).

REFERENCES

- Arregi, Karlos, and Andrew Nevins (2007). “Obliteration vs. impoverishment in the Basque g-/z-constraint.” In *Penn Working Papers in Linguistics*.
- Bobaljik, Jonathan David (2000). “The ins and outs of contextual allomorphy.” *University of Maryland working papers in linguistics* 10, no. 1: pp. 35–71.
- Bobaljik, Jonathan David (2012). *Universals in Comparative Morphology: Suppletion, Superlatives, and the Structure of Words*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press

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- Booij, Geert (2005). *The grammar of words: An introduction to linguistic morphology*. Oxford University Press.
- Choi, Jaehoon, and Heidi Harley (2019). "Locality domains and morphological rules: Phases, heads, node-sprouting and suppletion in Korean honorification." *Natural Language & Linguistic Theory* 37 (2019): 1319-1365. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11049-018-09438-3>.
- Chung, Inkie (2009). "Suppletive verbal morphology in Korean and the mechanism of vocabulary insertion." *Journal of Linguistics* 45, no. 3, pp: 533–567.
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- Fromkin, Victoria, Robert Rodman, and Nina Hyams (2007). *An Introduction to Language*. 10th edition. Wadsworth.
- Harizanov, Boris, and Vera Gribanova. "Whither head movement?" *Natural Language & Linguistic Theory* 37 (2019): 461-522. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11049-018-9420-5>.
- Harley, Heidi (2006). *English words: A linguistic introduction*. Blackwell Publishing.
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- Schaefer, Florian & Elena Anagnostopoulou (To Appear). "Case and Agreement in Distributed Morphology." In: *The Cambridge Handbook of Distributed Morphology*, eds. (Eds. Alexiadou, Artemis, Ruth Kramer, Alec Marantz & Isabel Oltra-Massuet. Cambridge University Press.