

Morphological Patterns in Language

Professor

Dr. Nicholas LaCara

Office: SS 4071

Hours: Monday 13:00–15:00 (drop in)

Tuesday by appointment

Email: nick.lacara@utoronto.ca

Location & Time

Room: IN 312

Days: Monday

Time: 09:10 – 12:00

Website: [Quercus](#)

Grader: Fiona Wilson

1 Overview

This is an advanced introduction to the study of morphological systems – the systems responsible for determining the structures and patterns within words. We will address topics pertaining to how morphological structure is built, *i.e.*, the atoms of and combinatorial principles governing morphologically complex objects. We will also take time to compare different theoretical approaches to morphology, especially from the point of view of the relation between syntax and morphology. After doing this, we will look at how morphology is taken to interact with phonological systems.

1.1 Prerequisites

This course has LIN229 (Sound Patterns in Language) and LIN232 (Syntactic Patterns in Language) as prerequisites. As such, this course will assume basic familiarity with concepts from phonology and syntax, including autosegmental representations, constituency, SPE rule notation, structural relations, tree structures, and underlying representations.

Many students will have also taken or be concurrently enrolled in LIN322 (Phonological Theory) or LIN331 (Syntactic Theory). The discussion may occasionally touch on issues raised in these courses, but there is no expectation that students will be familiar with these concepts.

1.2 Goals

By the end of this course, students will:

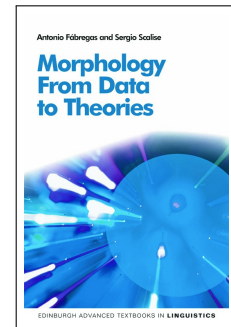
- Be able to identify a typologically important range of morphological structures and phenomena.
- Be familiar with prominent theoretical approaches to morphology, especially Lexicalism and Constructionism and the differences between them.
- Become familiar with issues regarding the relation between syntactic and morphological structures.
- Be able to apply specific theoretical analyses to morphological data and explain how various data support different theoretical approaches.
- Undertake basic research in morphology and select primary sources to support this research.

2 Materials

All materials other than the textbook will be made available on [Quercus](#).

2.1 Textbook

The main textbook is *Morphology: From Data to Theories* by Fábregas and Scalise (2012). It is available new from the [UofT bookstore](#) for about \$40. The bulk of the course readings will come from this text. Additional readings will be made available on [Quercus](#), mostly drawn from Katamba and Stonham 2006 and Embick 2015.



3 Course requirements

Marks in this course will be assigned based on the following components:

Requirement		%	Date(s) due
Participation		5%	Continuous
Assignments	(5 × 5%)	25%	See calendar
Term test		20%	11 February
Squib proposal		5%	11 March
Squib		15%	1 April
Final exam		30%	April exam period (TBA)

3.1 Reading

You should expect to read approximately one or two chapters or papers per lecture. You should try to do as much of the reading as you can before the associated class meeting; many lectures will assume you have done the reading. Some of the readings are fairly short, but occasionally this means they favour terseness over detail, so do not worry if you cannot understand everything. Focus on the basic issues raised in each chapter, keep track of the things you don't understand, and bring your questions to class!

3.2 Assignments

Assignments will be posted on Tuesdays every other week starting on 15 January, and they will be due the following Monday at 11:59 PM.¹ They will be based on the current readings and lectures. They are intended to test your comprehension of material we have covered as well as your ability to extend concepts beyond the lectures and reading.

All assignments must be submitted electronically via Quercus as PDF documents (no .docx, .otf, Google docs, etc.). Submissions delivered by any other means (hard copy, submitted by email, carrier pigeon, etc.) will not be accepted. You must type submissions. Some assignments will require you to include tree diagrams and IPA notation. I have uploaded a handout [Drawing Trees On a Computer](#) on Quercus to help you with this.

3.2.1 Writing up assignments

Before writing up your assignment, you should first work through the questions, taking notes about potential answers; after this, write up a final version of the assignment based on your notes. This will help ensure that

¹ My office hours are scheduled for Monday afternoons so you can come talk to me before they are due.

your work is clear and give you a chance to find any potential mistakes. An important component of these assignments will often be showing your work; it will not be sufficient to merely provide the correct answer, but to also show that you understand how to arrive at that answer. Your answers will be evaluated based, in part, on how thorough they are. To that end, *make sure you answer every question you are asked, and do every task you are given.*

3.2.2 Late work

No late work will be accepted without prior arrangements. I understand that sometimes there are circumstances that are beyond your control; if an emergency arises that prevents you from turning in your work on time, please notify me within 48 hours. Medical emergencies must be documented by an official UofT [Verification of Student Illness or Injury](#) form, submitted within one week of the original deadline, showing you were ill at the time the assignment was due. Students with circumstances that will affect their performance for extended periods of time should take up the issue with their college registrar.

3.2.3 Working together

You may work on assignments with other students enrolled in this course. If you do so, you must indicate who you worked with on each assignment (which you should do in a footnote on the first page). You must indicate if you worked alone. Failure to do so will result in a penalty of 10% of your mark on the assignment.

However, *each student must turn in their own work, written up in their own words.* You may not simply copy your work from another student, and you should not, under any circumstances, have somebody else's work or notes in front of you while you write up yours. This counts as [academic dishonesty](#). The easiest way to avoid this is to meet as a group to discuss the material, taking only very sketchy notes, and then write up the assignment after you have met.

3.3 Squib

All students will be required to write a squib (a short paper outlining some issue). The topic of the squib must be related to some issue in theoretical morphology. Students will be required to turn in a 1-page proposal for this squib on 4 March. The final squib will be due on 1 April. Details about the squib and proposal will be distributed before reading week so that students will be able to utilize this time to develop a topic.

3.4 Term test

There will be a single midterm test on 11 February. It will cover material introduced in lectures, readings, tutorials, and assignments up to that point. The midterm will be administered during our regular lecture time; as per the policy of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, we will not allow you to write the test at a different time if you have a conflict.

Make-up tests will only be administered to those with verified medical excuses. You must present your illness verification by 15 February or you will not be permitted to make-up the midterm and you will receive a 0. The make up will be administered on the morning of 15 February.

3.5 Final exam

There will be a final exam in the course, scheduled during the final exam period in April. The exam will be cumulative (though in order to understand what is happening in the second half of the course, you will not be

able to forget the first half, anyway). Students are responsible for checking their exam schedule and reporting any conflicts. Do not make any travel plans before the schedule is published; travel conflicts are not accepted as a reason for missing an examination.

3.6 Participation in lecture

There is no formal attendance requirement in this course. However, all students are expected to contribute to class discussions and ask questions, and doing so will require you to attend regularly. If you must miss class, it is not necessary to notify me. However, it is up to you to find out what you miss; please consult with your fellow students about what you missed.

4 Marks and evaluation

Marks in this course will be assigned following the Department of Linguistics' grading policy [↗](#). The Department of Linguistics follows the [University Assessment and Grading Practices Policy](#) [↗](#).

We will do our best to keep assignment marks up-to-date on Quercus. If you believe there is an error in the marking of an assignment or the midterm, you must notify us before the date of the final exam.

5 Academic integrity

This course is governed by the University of Toronto's Code of Student Conduct and Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters. Both of these can be accessed online via the site:

<http://www.utoronto.ca/academicintegrity/>

Suspected violations of these policies (including, but not limited to, plagiarism in submitted writing) will be reported to the Office of Student Academic Integrity.

6 Communication

You should feel free to communicate with me if you have any questions or concerns about the course. My email is listed on the first page, as are my office hours. If you cannot make my scheduled office hours, you may schedule an appointment at a different time, depending on my availability.

If you do email me, please include 'LIN333' at the beginning of the subject line. Email is best used for administrative issues (*e.g.*, problems with Quercus, scheduling meetings). Questions about course content, readings, *etc.*, are better asked in class or during office hours. I will try to respond to emails within 24 to 48 hours. Do not email me your assignments.

7 Accessibility and accommodations

If you require academic accommodations, please visit accessibility services at <https://www.studentlife.utoronto.ca/as> [↗](#). If you have any concerns about accessibility or accommodations in the context of this course, feel free to talk to me about them.

8 Calendar

This is an outline of the course, indicating lecture dates, the chapters to be read by that date, the topic of the lecture, and any work that will be due. The calendar is subject to change if necessary.

Wk.	Date	Topic	Due	Read
1	07 Jan.	Overview of morphology		F&S Ch. 1; Ch. 2, 22–29
2	14 Jan.	Morphological structures		F&S Ch 2, 29–43; Ch. 3, 44–54
3	21 Jan.	Inflection	HW1	F&S Ch. 4
4	28 Jan.	Derivation		F&S Ch. 5; Ch 3, 60–63
5	04 Feb.	Compounding	HW2	F&S Ch. 6; Ch 3, 57–60
6	11 Feb.	Midterm		
<i>Reading Week (18–22 Feb.)</i>				
7	25 Feb.	Relation to syntax & DM	HW3	Bobaljik 2017; F&S Ch. 7, 133–142, Ch 8, 159–163
8	04 Mar.	DM: Structures	Squib Prop.	Embick 2015, Ch 3
9	11 Mar.	DM: Vocabulary Insertion	HW4	Embick 2015, Ch 4, Ch 7, 201–208
10	18 Mar.	Relation to phonology & Infixation		F&S Ch. 8, 152–159, TBA
11	25 Mar.	Templatic morphology: Reduplication	HW5	K&S Ch. 9
12	01 Apr.	Templatic morphology: Root & Pattern	Squib	K&S Ch. 8

Key: F&S= Fábregas and Scalise 2012, K&S= Katamba and Stonham 2006

Important dates

- 20 January: Last day to enrol
- 17 March: Last day to drop
- 5 April: Classes end

The final exam will be scheduled during the final exam period, 6–30 April.

References

- Bobaljik, Jonathan David. 2017. Distributed Morphology. In *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Linguistics*. Oxford University Press.
- Embick, David. 2015. *The Morpheme: A Theoretical Introduction*, volume 31 of *Interface Explorations*. Berlin: De Gruyter Mouton.
- Fábregas, Antonio, and Sergio Scalise. 2012. *Morphology: From Data to Theories*. Edinburgh Advanced Textbooks in Linguistics. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press.
- Katamba, Francis, and John Stonham. 2006. *Morphology*. Modern Linguistics. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2nd edition.