**Morphology & Syntax**

**Course Information:**

**Title:** Morphology & Syntax **Course Code:**  ENG-224 **Credit Hours:** 3hrs

**Instructor Information:**

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**Course Description**

Morphology deals with the internal structure of words and their meaningful parts. Syntax is concerned with sentence structure - how words are combined together to form phrases, phrases combined together to form larger phrases, clauses and sentences, and how clauses are combined together to form complex sentences. Together, morphology and syntax comprise the core of the grammar of a language. Since grammar is no longer a major focus in schools, most students have little understanding of even the most basic notions such as being able to identify parts of speech, or understanding how large constructions are composed out of smaller units. Being able to identify constituents and agreement constraints will help students to improve and correct their academic writing. The course will be practical in focus and will teach students essential skills for the linguistic description and analysis of a language. This course is both theoretical and practical in nature. It is theoretical in that it provides the students with considerable knowledge of morphological and syntactic terms and process. It also helps the students to develop their skills in morphological and syntactic analyses.

**Aims and Objectives:**

The course aims to:

* Develop understandings of the nature of human language and identify differences with other systems of communication
* Develop understanding of the structure of language, specifically its morphological subsystems
* Develop understanding of morphophonemic processes in language.
* Develop understanding of the lexicon and lexical categories (ie parts of speech).
* Develop understanding of compositionality, constituency and dependency relations.
* Develop understanding linguistic typology with regard to morphology and syntax.
* Develop understanding about grammatical relations and their expression.
* Develop understanding of both lexical and derivational valence and their implications for argument structure.
* Develop understanding of a variety of complex sentence phenomena.
* Develop in students the ability to undertake grammatical analysis of unfamiliar languages, and an awareness of the range of coding phenomena encountered.

**Learning Outcomes:**

After successfully completing this course, students should be able to:

* Use the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) to transcribe and interpret transcriptions of unfamiliar languages
* Undertake a morphological analysis to identify the morphemes and allomorphs in any given language.
* Demonstrate a good understanding of forms of English words in different uses and constructions
* Understand the conceptual and empirical foundations of generative syntax and interpret basic syntactic formalisms and descriptions.
* Develop understanding about the lexicon and lexical categories.
* Develop understanding about compositionality, constituency and dependency relations and be able to identify constituent structure at an advanced level.
* Develop understanding about grammatical relations and their expression.
* Develop understanding about a variety of complex sentence phenomena.
* Apply basic techniques of Morphological and syntactic analysis
* Identify constituent structure at an advanced level.
* Establish and justify the lexical and grammatical categories for any given language.
* Articulate understandings of the nature of language.
* Undertake linguistic descriptive investigation of a known or unknown language through primary observation.
* Write a coherent and logically argued review of a published grammar of an unfamiliar language, demonstrating a familiarity with widely used terminology and technical issues involved.
* Confidently approach analysis of a data set drawn from an unknown language.

**Course Prerequisite knowledge and skills:**

Students are expected to demonstrate some quality writing skills on the first day of class. While I will provide feedback on writing throughout the semester, I expect students to be knowledgeable of grammar rules, essay structure, and proper citation styles.

* Students may use APA style in this course to cite sources: http://www.apastyle.org/learn/quickguide-on-references.aspx or http://www.bibme.org/citation-guide/apa/.
* Students may check their grammar using: https://www.grammarly.com/

**Tentative Weekly Distribution Of Course Contents**

**Schedule Description of Topics**

**Week 1** Introduction to morphology, the notion of word, identifying the pieces of words, Word, Word-form and Lexeme

**Week 2** The morpheme, Types of Morpheme, Root, bases and Affixation, Allomorphs and its Kinds

**Week 3** Inflectional and derivational morphology; Derivational morphology and Processes

**Week 4** Inflectional morphology, Major types of inflection, Structure and meaning in words,

**Week 5** Syntactic Analysis: Grammar Beyond the Sentence Level; Cohesion and Coherence, Elements of Cohesion, Sentence and Clause Complexes, Grammar at Sentence and Clause level (SPCA)

**Week 6** Introducing Syntax, Defining Grammar and Rules, Lexical Entries; Introducing Chomskyan Linguistics: Innateness Theory, Generative Grammar, Universal Grammar

**Week 7** Parts of Speech, Classification of POS, Major POS, Are POS Universal? Introducing Phrases, Trees & Rules, Drawing Trees

**Week 8 Mid Term Exam**

**Week 9** Structural Relations, Grammatical relations, Semantic Relations, Constituency, Constituency Tests

**Week 10** Revisiting PS Rules; Head, Complement and Specifier; Introducing X-bar Theory

**Week 11** X-Bar Theory; Extending X-bar Theory to Functional Categories,

**Week 12** Constraining X-bar Theory: Theta Theory; The Lexicon,

**Week 13** Introducing Movement; Head-to-Head Movement,

**Week 14** DP Movement, Wh-movement

**Week 15** Syntactic Analysis: Mood and its Function, Mood and Modality

**Week 16 Final Term**

**Course Expectations:**

The course is being delivered online via the Zoom platform. Assessments will include project-based work, discussions, and quizzes. Students are expected to follow a weekly outline that is found on the Home page of the course. The outline provides materials and opportunities to engage and practice the information learned in sequential steps that ultimately lead to the goals and objectives of the course. Within each week’s outline, you will find the week’s topic, learning objectives, lecture, readings, and assignments.

**System of Evaluation: Course Requirement and Assessment Scheme**

1. A mid-term paper (5-6 pages) is assigned: 30%. This assignment will ask students to discuss their cultural self-identity.

2. Final Term exam will be after week 16, based on the topics discussed in the live sessions of the class meeting; 50%. The exam will ask students to apply some basic concepts and/or conceptual framework that they will have learned in the course and discuss topics they are interested in.

They will be encouraged to conduct short and easily manageable empirical investigations. Specific guidelines for the assignment and exam will be given in the class.

3. Two in-class quizzes (weeks 7 and week 13), assessing comprehension of the assigned reading materials: 10%

4. Attendance and participation: 10%

**Course Resources**

**Required Textbooks**

Carnie, A. (2006 & 2013). *Syntax: A Generative Introduction*. Wiley-Blackwell.

Kim, J. & Sells, P. (2008). *English Syntax: An Introduction.*

Leiber, R. (2009). *Introducing Morphology*. Cambridge University Press. Cambridge.

Plag, I. (2002). *Word Formation in English*.

**Additional Readings**

Radford, A. (2004) *English Syntax: An Introduction*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, ISBN 0 521 54275 8 (paperback)

Chomsky, N. (1995). *The Minimalist Program*. MIT Press.

Radford, A. (1988). *Transformational Grammar: A First Course*. Cambridge University Press.

Bauer, L. (1988). *Introducing Linguistic Morphology*. Edinburgh: EUP.