

Ling 523 Morphology

San Diego State University
Schedule #12983
Spring 2024
TTh 9:30am–10:45am
LH-245

This course offers an introduction to the theoretical principles of word structure. Topics to be covered include inflection, derivation, and compounding; the organization of the lexicon; the structure of inflectional paradigms; morphophonological and morphosyntactic alternations; productivity; and computational applications. Students taking this class should have already taken either Ling 420 or Ling 501 (or equivalent).

Prof. Rob Malouf

Website: malouf.sdsu.edu

Email: rmalouf@sdsu.edu

Office hours: TTh 1:00–2:00 or by appointment

Real office: SHW 244

Zoom office: SDSU.zoom.us/j/81320275583

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion, students will have the knowledge and skills to:

1. Describe and analyze the structure of words and recognize different types of word structure
2. Apply current theories of word structure to new examples, to recognize the role of morphological data for the construction of linguistic theory
3. Evaluate the productivity of morphological patterns using corpus-driven methods
4. Understand computational models of word structure.

Course Materials

The required textbooks for this course are:

- Martin Haspelmath and Andrea D. Sims. 2010. *Understanding Morphology*. Second edition. Hodder Education.
- William R. Merrifield, Constance M. Nais, Calvin R. Rensch, and Gillian L. Story. 2003. *Laboratory Manual for Morphology and Syntax*. Seventh edition. SIL International.

These books are available through the SDSU Bookstore's Equitable Access and Immediate Access programs. Check with their website to find out more about that.

All other course information, additional readings, assignments, slides, etc. will be available on Canvas.

Course Design

The final grade will be based on homework assignments (25%), a take-home midterm exam and final exam (25%) each, and a writing assignment (25%).

Working in groups on homework assignments is encouraged. However, please turn in your own individual write-up. Homework should be submitted via Canvas as a PDF file (preferred) or Word document. Late homework will be accepted with a grade penalty. Exams will be open-book but are not group work. Please, no collaboration on exams!

Important dates

Midterm due: March 29

Writing assignment due: April 19

Final exam due: May 10

Course outline

Week	1	Introduction
Week	2	Inflection and derivation
Week	3, 4	Word-formation
Week	5	Compounding
Week	6	Morphemes
Week	7	Processes
Week	8	Morphophonology
Week	9, 10	Computational models
Week	11	Paradigms
Week	12, 13	Productivity
Week	14	Complexity
Week	15	Review

Revised: 15 January 2024