

**LNG 250: MORPHOLOGY**

**Dimitrios Ntelitheos**

Time: Sunday/Tuesday, 08:00-09:15  
 Venue: C1 1046  
 Office hours: Sunday/Tuesday 11:15am – 12:45am, in C1 0043  
 Email: [dimitrios\\_n@uaeu.ac.ae](mailto:dimitrios_n@uaeu.ac.ae)  
 Language of instruction: English

**1. COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course introduces students to the basic concepts in morphological theory and the necessary tools in conducting morphological analysis. While some emphasis will be on Arabic nonlinear morphology, morphological patterns from various languages from around the world will be studied. Concepts such as root, stem, morpheme, allomorph, derivation, inflection, word syntax, and morphological productivity are covered. The interface between morphology and other levels of analysis, such as phonology, syntax, and semantics is also discussed.

**2. TEACHING METHODS**

Instruction will be student-centered. Students are required to read the assigned material and write and/or answer specific questions relevant to the reading before they come to class. They are expected to participate in class discussions. Discussion is essential to the success of the course. Your participation is the only indicator that you read carefully and critically. Every effort will be made to ensure that the atmosphere in the class is welcoming and encouraging so that everybody can share their ideas and be respected. It is important that you pay attention and are engaged in class by asking questions and expressing your point of view. The students will use readings and exercises to be provided by the instructor but are encouraged to consult additional sources.

**3. COURSE OBJECTIVES AND COURSE OUTCOMES**

Objectives <i>What the teacher will do</i>	Outcomes <i>How the student will benefit</i>
To provide basic concepts in morphological theory that go beyond what students have seen in LNG100 (Introduction to Linguistics).	Students will have a deeper grasp of the theoretical concepts manipulated in modern morphological theory.
To provide students with the analytic tools and techniques necessary to conduct basic morphological analysis. These will allow them to recognize types of roots (bound vs. free) and types of affixes (prefixes, infixes, suffixes), morphemes and allomorphs, types of derivational and inflectional processes; formulate morphological rules; and formally represent the internal structure of words.	Students will be able to perform morphemic analysis of any language, classify morphemes as free or bound, roots or affixes, recognize allomorphy, distinguish between derivational and inflectional operations, write rules, and draw hierarchical structures representing word-internal structure.
To provide students with the theoretical tools necessary to identify typological similarities and differences between the morphological systems of different languages, understand how morphology interacts with other aspects of language (namely, phonology, syntax and semantics), and assess productivity in morphology.	Students will be able to classify morphological systems, and identify morphophonological, morphosyntactic and morphosemantic phenomena. They will also distinguish productive from non-productive morphological processes.
To bring students to see the relevance of morphological analysis to research and practice in psycholinguistics, neurolinguistics, natural language processing, language teaching/learning, and language/speech pathology.	Students will be able to apply insight from analysis of morphological patterns in various natural languages to understand, evaluate and conduct studies in related fields and professions (e.g., psycholinguistics, neurolinguistics, natural language processing, language teaching/learning,

	and language/speech pathology).
To introduce students to the intriguing morphological system of Arabic and equip them with the necessary tools to understand and analyze it.	Students will be able to understand the nature of the Arabic non-linear morphology and recent models used to describe it.
To enhance students' understanding of the structure and nature of natural languages.	Students will discover another aspect of linguistic knowledge: knowledge of words and their structure.
To enhance students' critical thinking and research skills by having them practice analysis of data sets from various languages and write reports.	Through writing up of their morphemic analyses as projects, students will have the opportunity to use and sharpen their problem-solving capabilities and present linguistic research in a written form and in front of an audience.

#### 4. STUDENTS RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Students must attend class regularly.
2. Students must do the readings before they come to class (ways to test this may be used)
3. Students are expected to actively participate to class discussions (this would count in the evaluation).
4. Students who have missed class for any reason are responsible for finding out what information has been missed and are encouraged to talk to the instructor and/or classmates.
5. Missed quizzes may be made up only in cases of emergency (family or medical; a note from a doctor is to be provided). Tests will not be made up otherwise.

#### 5. GRADING SCHEME

- |                        |     |  |
|------------------------|-----|--|
| 1. Mid-term Exam       | 20% |  |
| 2. Final Exam          | 40% |  |
| 3. Quizzes             | 10% | One quiz every 8 weeks (overall: 2 quizzes)          |
| 4. Home assignments    | 20% | One assignment every 4 weeks (overall 4 assignments) |
| 5. Class participation | 10% |  |

#### 6. TENTATIVE COURSE OUTLINE

<u>Week</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Reading</u>
1-2	Introduction to morphology	Chapter 1
3	Word structure	Chapter 2
4-5	Types of morphemes	Chapter 3
6	Productivity in word-formation	Chapter 4
7	Compounding and Other Morphological processes	Chapter 12
8	Midterm Exam	To be provided by instructor,
10	Lexical morphology	
10-12	Prosodic morphology	Chapters 5, 6, 7
13-14	Inflectional morphology	Chapter 8, Chapter 9
15-16	Morphosyntax	Chapter 10
17	Typology and practicing morphological analysis	To be provided by instructor
18	Review	

#### 7. QUIZ AND ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE

<u>Week</u>	
2	Assignment 1
4	Quiz 1
6	Assignment 2
8	Mid-term exam

10	Assignment 3
12	Quiz 2
14	Assignment 4
15	Assignment 5 (Optional)

## 8. TEACHING MATERIALS

1. Katamba, Francis. 1993. *Morphology*. Basingstoke: Macmillan. (Primary Textbook)
2. Other Material will be available in Blackboard.

### SOME OTHER MORPHOLOGY TEXTBOOKS

- Anderson, Stephen R. (1992) *A-Morphous Morphology*. Cambridge University Press.
- Aronoff, Mark (1976) *Word Formation in Generative Grammar*. MIT Press.
- Carstairs-McCarthy, Andrew (1992) *Current Morphology*. Routledge.
- Jensen, John T. (1990) *Morphology: Word Structure in Generative Grammar*. John Benjamins: Amsterdam.
- Matthews, P. H. (1991) *Morphology*. Cambridge University Press.
- Spencer, Andrew (1991) *Morphological Theory*. Blackwell.