

Syllabus: Morphological Theory

- Instructor: Bruce Hayes
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- Office hours: MW 11-12 and by appt. Drop-ins for quick questions usually ok.
- Prerequisites: Linguistics 200A and 200B. If you're missing one or both of these, talk to me before taking the course.
- Content: This course is a survey at the graduate level of morphology and morphological theory.
- Requirements:
- a. Three **problem sets**, all in first half of quarter
 - b. Do the **readings**. For some, but not all, I will ask for a less-than-one-page summary.
 - c. Three items centered around your **term paper**:
 - i. An **appointment** with me, in which you discuss your term paper topic.
 - ii. A **talk**, with handout, given to an audience of at least one (me), due Friday of 10th week (6/3) and covering your term paper content.
 - iii. The paper itself, on some topic in morphology of your own choosing, due Friday of finals week, (6/10).
- Textbook: Booij, Geert (2007) *The Grammar of Words: An Introduction to Morphology*. Oxford: OUP. Ordered from the UCLA campus bookstore in Ackermann. We'll read from this steadily for solid background.
- Other readings: Current research articles. I will post them on the course website, <http://www.linguistics.ucla.edu/people/hayes/205/>. Some of it will be private and sit behind a password; send me an email if you need it.

Course Outline

(Subject to revision and open to suggestion.)

1. Introductory

- Inflection and derivation, modes of realization, language typology

2. Theories of inflectional realization

- Two kinds of theory:
 - phonology-like, with inside-out assembly—Anderson and colleagues
 - syntax-like, with principles of morpheme order—distributed morphology
- A “poster child” example from Nungubuyu (Heath, Noyer)
- Hard cases in morpheme order: work of Larry Hyman, Kevin Ryan

3. Bases

- What’s derived from what? (semantically, phonologically...)
 - Some empirical examples not covered in Linguistics 201.
 - Bonami and Boyé’s large base-tracing trees

4. Productivity

- ... as a characteristic phenomenon in derivational morphology
- How to predict productivity level—work of Baayen and colleagues

5. Morphological learning

- Finding the morphemes with distributional learning (Baroni, Cartwright and Brent, Goldsmith, Pertsova, Kruskal, Mintz)
- Regularity and irregularity

6. Syntax and morphology

- Hi-powered morphological systems that expressed clausal content in words: polysynthesis
 - construction like *verb + object*: Object incorporation
 - constructions like *verb + verb*: Causatives
- Again, very different theories modeled on syntax and on phonology.