

# LING 350: **The Structure of Words**

Instructor: Xiaomeng (Amy) Ma  
The Graduate Center, CUNY

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E-mail: [Xiaomeng.Ma@csi.cuny.edu](mailto:Xiaomeng.Ma@csi.cuny.edu)  
Office Hours: by appointment

Class Format: Online, Asynchronous

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## **Course Description**

An introduction to linguistic morphology, the study of word structure and word formation in languages of the world. This course will explore how words can be analyzed into smaller units of meaning and sound, the semantic properties of words, the origin of English words, and how word structure interacts with sound and sentence structure. Pre Requisite: ENG 151. NOTE: Not open to students who have already completed ENL 447

## **Course Materials**

- Textbook: [English Vocabulary Elements](#), Author: Denning, Publisher: Oxford, Edition: 2nd,
- Textbook: [Introducing Morphology](#), Author: Lieber, Publisher: Cambridge, Edition: 2nd
- Course notes and additional readings for each chapter will be available on blackboard.

## **Course Objectives**

1. Students will be able to identify morphemes (minimal units of word-level meaning), and express word structure using tree-notation.
2. Students will be able to identify and distinguish inflectional and derivational operations.
3. Students will be able to identify word and base forms of historical and recent borrowing origin.
4. Students will be able to identify basic principles of semantic categorization in the world's languages.

## Letter Grade Distribution

>= 93.00	A	73.00 - 76.99	C
90.00 - 92.99	A-	70.00 - 72.99	C-
87.00 - 89.99	B+	67.00 - 69.99	D+
83.00 - 86.99	B	63.00 - 66.99	D
80.00 - 82.99	B-	60.00 - 62.99	D-
77.00 - 79.99	C+	<= 59.99	F

## Grading Policy

I reserve the right to curve the scale dependent on overall class scores at the end of the semester.

- 30% Homework
- 30% Midterm Exam
- 30% Final Exam
- 10% Quiz

### Homework

- There will weekly homework posted with the lecture recording.
- The due date for each homework is Sunday 8:00pm.

### Midterm and Final Exam

- Midterm and Final exam will be in-class online exams.
- Total score for midterm and final exam will be 100'. There will be 25 multiple choice questions, 2' each. Three short essay questions, 10' each. One long essay question, 20'.
- Make-up exam is only available to those who have reasonable excuses. If you have to miss the exam, please contact me **BEFORE** exam day.

### Quiz

- There will be two quizzes: one before midterm exam, one before final exam.
- There will be 5 multiple choice questions and 5 yes/no questions on the quiz.
- The quiz will be posted online and you can finish it within 72hrs after the quiz is open. Once you start the quiz, you will have 10 mins to finish the quiz.

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## College Policies

### Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:

Qualified students with disabilities will be provided reasonable academic accommodations if determined eligible by the Center for Student Accessibility. Prior to granting disability accommodations in this course, the instructor must receive written verification of students eligibility from the Center for Student Accessibility, which is located in 1P-101. It is the students responsibility to initiate contact with the Center for Student Accessibility staff and to follow the established procedures for having the accommodation notice sent to the instructor. To learn more about the accommodations and services that are available, please contact Center for Student Accessibility 718-982-2510 Center for the Arts (1P), Room 101 CSA@csi.cuny.edu

### Policies for Dishonorable Conduct/Cheating:

Academic dishonesty includes cheating and plagiarism. This can consist of (1) copying answers from another student's exam, (2) copying ideas or words from another student's paper, (3) copying ideas or words from a published source, including websites, without appropriate citation, and 4) using a cell phone or other method to get assistance on a quiz or exam. Students who cheat or plagiarize will have consequences ranging from receiving no points on the assignment/test to being suspended from CSI (with acknowledgement that you cheated on your permanent record). In all cases, the Psychology department chair will be alerted about the offense and a formal report will be reported to the Dean of Student Affairs. Please see CUNY's policy on Academic Integrity: <http://web.cuny.edu/academics/info-central/policies/academic-integrity.pdf>

### Other CSI Resources:

#### The Counseling Center

The Counseling Center provides individual and group counseling for students of the College of Staten Island. We offer personal and academic counseling services. Students are given the opportunity to explore issues that can help them achieve success. To make an appointment please call 718-982-2391 or drop-in to 1A-109. Students can also be seen on a walk-in basis.  
Email: [counseling@csi.cuny.edu](mailto:counseling@csi.cuny.edu)

#### The Writing Center

2S-216

Bob Brandt, Tutoring Coordinator

Contact Info: 718-982-3635

The Writing Center, under the direction of the English Department, assists students in improving reading and writing skills in all subject areas. Our basic approach is to help students improve their skills by providing them with meaningful feedback and guidance. We are here to help each student thoroughly fulfill his or her own potential through a better understanding of course requirements, assignments and readings. To meet these goals, we offer two primary modes of tutoring. Students with regularly scheduled appointments meet for one class period (50 minutes) a week with a designated tutor, sometimes one-on-one and sometimes in small groups that include up to three other students in the same class or at the same level. Drop-in sessions, during which students are seen on a first-come, first-served basis, require no appointment.

Table 1: Weekly Schedule

Week	Topic	Readings
1	What is a word? Words, dictionaries, and the mental lexicon	Lieber Ch 1 & 2
2	Identifying categories	Handout on lexical Categories
3	Identifying categories Identifying morphemes	Denning et al. pp 41-51
4	Historical influences on the English lexicon I	Denning et al. Ch 1
5	Historical influences on the English lexicon II	Denning et al. Ch 9
6	Coinage and common word-formation processes Concepts, reference, and lexical meanings	Denning et al. pp 51-65 Lieber 51-53
7	Identifying structure: Affixation I	Lieber pp 31-43
8	Review for Midterm	Midterm Study Handout
9	<b>**Midterm Exam**</b> Compounding I	Lieber pp. 43-49
10	Affixation II: Inflection and derivation	Lieber pp 49-50 (Sec. 3.5) Lieber Ch 6
11	Compounding II Other morphological operations	Lieber Ch 5 (part 1)
12	Other morphological operations	Lieber Ch 5 (part 2)
13	Interaction with sentence structure: Morphosyntax	• Lieber Ch 8
14	Interaction with sound structure: Morphophonology	Lieber Ch 9
15	Review for Final Exam	Final Exam Study Handout
16	<b>** Final Exam **</b>	