

The Chinese University of Hong Kong
Department of Linguistics and Modern Languages
Second Term, 2025-26

1. Course Code: LING3101

2. Title in English: Morphology

3. Title in Chinese: 形態學/構詞學/詞法學

4. Course description

Morphology is the subfield of linguistics concerned with the internal structure of words and the principles governing their formation. The primary aim of morphological study is to describe and explain the systematic patterns of word structure observed across the world's languages. This field investigates the linguistic knowledge that enables speakers to use words productively and to form intuitive judgments about them. This course introduces students to the fundamental phenomena of morphological structure, drawing on data from a diverse range of languages. Students will examine various morphosemantic and morphosyntactic categories attested cross-linguistically, as well as the morphophonological forms that realize them. The course concludes with a focused exploration of morphological phenomena in Chinese, and considers the potential extension of morphological analytical frameworks to iconic symbolic systems, such as emojis used in computer-mediated communication.

5. Learning outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Define and critically evaluate core morphological concepts—including morphemes, inflection, derivation, productivity, headedness, and compounding—and discuss the challenges inherent in their delineation.
- Apply morphological analytical tools to empirical linguistic data, formulating and testing hypotheses about structural patterns within and across languages.
- Analyze the interaction between morphology and other grammatical components, specifically phonology, semantics, and syntax.
- Conduct a principled morphological analysis of Chinese linguistic data and emoji usage, applying the concepts and methods developed throughout the course

6. Course syllabus

Topic	Contents/fundamental concepts
Morphological rules	Affixation, compounding, reduplication
Derivational and inflectional morphology	Roots and affixes, differences between derivational and inflectional morphology, structure and hierarchy
Morphophonology	Alternation, allomorph
Morphosyntax	Argument structure and valence
Chinese morphology	Derivation, inflection, reduplication, compounding
Emoji morphology	Typology of emojis, inflection and derivation of pro-text emojis

7. Course components (Teaching modes and Learning activities)

Teaching Modes and Learning Activities	
On-site face-to-face	Percentage of time
<i>Lectures (hybrid no)</i>	20%
<i>Interactive tutorial (hybrid no)</i>	10%
Out-of-classroom	
<i>Homework assignments</i>	35%
<i>Readings</i>	30%
<i>Consultations & Office hours (hybrid yes)</i>	5%

8. Assessment type, percentage and rubrics

Assessment type	Percentage
<p>Homework assignments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There will be a total of 2 take-home written homework assignments. • 20% of your raw score will be taken off for each day overdue. • They are not group projects and you are expected to work on them individually. 	20% * 2 = 40%
<p>Mid-term exam</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There will be 1 in-class mid-term on Mar 13 (Week 10). 	25%
<p>Final exam</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There will be 1 final exam. • The final exam will be cumulative. • It will be conducted on 4 -6 pm, Tue, Apr 21, exact place TBA. 	25%
<p>Participation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consistent and active participation in lectures and tutorials is required. • For each missed class meeting without a documented family or medical emergence, 2% will be taken off. 	10%

Assessment rubrics	
Grade	Overall course
A	Outstanding performance on all learning outcomes (assignments, midterm and final exam). The student consistently demonstrates a deep understanding of important concepts of morphology and outstanding ability to analyze different types of morphologically complex words. He/she clearly shows a thorough understanding of the relation and interaction between morphology and other domains of language.
A-	Generally outstanding performance on all learning outcomes. The student frequently demonstrates an excellent understanding of major concepts of morphology and great ability to analyze different types of morphologically complex words. He/she frequently shows a great understanding of the relation and interaction between morphology and other domains of language. The student's answers to assignments and exams are very logical and show great understanding of lecture materials and discussion in class. However, his/her answers contain a few illogical parts, but without any serious errors or mistake.
B+ B B-	Substantial performance on most of learning outcomes. The student frequently demonstrates a very good understanding of major concepts of morphology and decent ability to analyze different types of morphologically complex words. In general, he/she shows a good understanding of the relation and interaction between morphology and other domains of language. The student's answers to assignments and exams are logical overall and show a very good understanding of lecture materials

	and discussion in class. However, his/her answers contain some logically flawed parts and a few serious and some minor errors and/or mistakes.
C+ C C-	Satisfactory performance on the majority of learning outcomes. The student demonstrates a basic understanding of major concepts of morphology, but limited ability to analyze different types of morphologically complex words. He/she shows a basic understanding of the relation and interaction between morphology and other domains of language. The student's answers to assignments and exams are logically flawed quite frequently, but still demonstrate a decent understanding of lecture materials and discussion in class. His/her answers contain a few serious errors and/or mistakes in addition to many minor errors.
D	Marginal performance overall. The student only demonstrates a very limited understanding of major concepts of morphology and poor ability to analyze different types of morphologically complex words. He/she only shows a meager understanding of the relation and interaction between morphology and other domains of language. The student's answers to assignments and exams are illogical overall and show poor understanding of lecture materials and discussion in class. His/her answers contain many serious and minor errors and/or mistakes.
F	Unsatisfactory performance overall. The student falls in one the following cases: (i) The student fails to submit most of the assignments before deadlines or misses exams without prior notice. (ii) The student has been absent from more than half of the classes. (iii) The student commits plagiarism on assignments. (iv) The student's performance is lower than performance for Grade D.

9. Required and recommended readings

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Required readings: <i>What is morphology? (2nd edition)</i>, Aronoff, M. & K. Fudeman. Wiley Blackwell. 2011. • Recommended readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Alternative textbooks: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Understanding Morphology (2nd edition)</i>, Martin Haspelmath & Andrea Sims. Routledge. 2010. 2. <i>Introducing Morphology (3rd edition)</i>, Rochelle Lieber, Cambridge University Press. 2021. ▪ Research handbooks and encyclopedia: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. <i>The Handbook of Morphology</i>, ed. By Andrew Spencer & Arnold M. Zwicky. Wiley Blackwell. 2017. (Online access is here) 4. <i>The Cambridge Handbook of Morphology</i>, ed. By Andrew Hippisley & Gregory Stump. Cambridge University Press. 2017. (Online access is here) 5. <i>Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Linguistics</i>, ed. by Mark Aronoff ▪ Chinese morphology: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. <i>The Morphology of Chinese: A Linguistic and Cognitive Approach</i>. Jerome L. Packard. Cambridge University Press. 2010. 7. <i>Chinese morphology and its interface with the syntax</i>. Dai, John X. L. Ohio State University Dissertation. 1992. 8. 《中國古代語法—構詞編》，中央研究院歷史語言研究所專刊之 39，周法高，中央研究院歷史語言研究所，1962.

- Lecture handouts will be posted on the Blackboard website for download before class.
- The relevant concepts and techniques will be introduced and discussed in class. They include - but are not limited to - materials found in the textbook. Disclaimer: In case of any conflict, in-class instructions always have precedence over the textbook.

10. Feedback for evaluation

- In addition to the standard final course evaluation, starting from Week 3, we will also set up **an anonymous Google form** for you to ask questions or make suggestions throughout the entire term. Your feedback will be incorporated accordingly.
- Meanwhile, you are also more than welcome to share your thoughts and concerns by emailing your feedback or questions to us, or making in-person/virtual appointments with us.
- Whenever you feel that you are falling behind and have content questions, please also do not hesitate to ask us for help!
- When you contact us via emails, please kindly put “LING3101 Morphology” in the subject line and allow us **24 hours (on weekdays)** to respond.

11. Course schedule (subject to change)

Class/ week	Date	Topic	Requirements/comments
1	Jan 9	Introduction: What is morphology?	AF2011 pp. 1-10
2	Jan 16	Morphological analysis, wordhood	AF2011 pp. 10-23, 33-57
3	Jan 23	Morphophonology I	AF2011 pp. 73-95
4	Jan 30	Morphophonology II	AF2011 pp. 73-95
5	Feb 6	Derivation and Semantics	AF2011 pp. 136-147
6	Feb 13	Inflection I	AF2011 pp. 157-177
7	Feb 20	No class: Lunar New Year	
8	Feb 27	Inflection II	AF2011 pp. 157-177
9	Mar 6	No class: Reading week	
10	Mar 13	Mid term	
11	Mar 20	Morphosyntax I	AF2011 pp. 196-209
12	Mar 27	Morphosyntax II	AF2011 pp. 196-209
13	Apr 3	No class: Good Friday	
14	Apr 10	Compounding	AF2011 pp. 112-115
15	Apr 17	The morphology of Chinese	
16	Apr 20	Make-up class: Emoji morphology	10:00 - 11:45am, location TBA
17	Apr 21	Final exam	4 -6 pm, location TBA

12. Teachers' and TA's contact details

Instructor:	
Name:	CHEN Zhuo 陳卓
Office Location:	G27 Leung Kau Kui Building, https://cuhk.zoom.us/j/5652900145
Email:	zhuochen[AT]cuhk.edu.hk
Teaching Venue:	Lecture: Fri 9:30-11:15, LSK 515 Tutorial: Wed 13:30-14:15, LSK 302
Office hours:	0.5 hr before assignment deadlines, 1 hr before exams, exact time TBA; otherwise by appointment

Teaching Assistant/Tutor:	
Name:	HUANG Jiayin 黃佳吟, WANG Hongyan 王洪妍
Office Location:	G19 Leung Kau Kui Building
Email:	jiayinhuang[AT]link.cuhk.edu.hk, hongyanwang[AT]link.cuhk.edu.hk
Office hours:	By appointment

13. Details of course website

- We will use the course Blackboard website to post course materials (lecture handouts and optional readings), assignments, and announcements.
- We will also send out email reminders once we post assignments and make announcements, please make sure to check your email regularly.

14. Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools in teaching, learning and assessments

All use of AI tools is prohibited

In any kind of learning activity or assessment that will be counted towards the final course grades (or used for evaluating attainment of the desired learning outcomes), students are not allowed to submit work which is produced with the collaboration of or supported by the use of any AI tools (e.g. ChatGPT, DeepSeek, Grok, Claude, Gemini, etc.).

Improper/unauthorized use of AI tools in learning activities and assessments will constitute acts of academic dishonesty and will be handled according to the University's *Procedures for Handling Cases of Academic Dishonesty*.

In case of queries, students should seek advice from the course teacher.

15. Academic honesty and plagiarism

Attention is drawn to University policy and regulations on honesty in academic work, and to the disciplinary guidelines and procedures applicable to breaches of such policy and regulations. Details may be found at <http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/>.

With each assignment, students will be required to submit a signed **declaration** that they are aware of

these policies, regulations, guidelines and procedures.

- In the case of group projects, all members of the group should be asked to sign the declaration, each of whom is responsible and liable to disciplinary actions, irrespective of whether he/she has signed the declaration and whether he/she has contributed, directly or indirectly, to the problematic contents.
- For assignments in the form of a computer-generated document that is principally text-based and submitted via VeriGuide, the statement, in the form of a receipt, will be issued by the system upon students' uploading of the soft copy of the assignment.
- Students are fully aware that their work may be investigated by AI content detection software to determine originality.
- Students are fully aware of the AI approach(es) adopted in the course. In the case where some AI tools are allowed, students have made proper acknowledgment and citations as suggested by the course teacher.

Assignments without a properly signed declaration will not be graded by teachers.

Only the final version of the assignment should be submitted via VeriGuide.

The submission of a piece of work, or a part of a piece of work, for more than one purpose (e.g. to satisfy the requirements in two different courses) without declaration to this effect shall be regarded as having committed undeclared multiple submissions. It is common and acceptable to reuse a turn of phrase or a sentence or two from one's own work; but wholesale reuse is problematic. In any case, agreement from the course teacher(s) concerned should be obtained prior to the submission of the piece of work.

The copyright of the teaching materials, including lecture notes, assignments and examination questions, etc., produced by staff members/teachers of The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) belongs to CUHK. Students may download the teaching materials produced by the staff members/teachers from the Learning Management Systems, e.g. Blackboard, adopted by CUHK for their own educational use, but shall not distribute/share/copy the materials to a third-party without seeking prior permission from the staff members/teachers concerned.

16. Guideline on sharing lecture recordings

Attention is drawn to the following:

- The copyright of any lecture recordings shared in the course, whether they are produced by teachers, students, or peer note-takers, belongs to the University.
- Students should not share these recordings with others without obtaining prior written consent from the teacher(s).

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