

Ling 350: The Structure of Words
The College of Staten Island, CUNY
Fall 2025

Updated 3 Dec. 2025

Day/Time: Wednesdays, 6:30–9:50pm
Room: 2N 110
Website: <https://ling350fall25.commonscsi.cuny.edu/>

Instructor: Joseph Pentangelo
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- Please don't send emails to "cix.csi.cuny.edu" — I won't see them.
- Please include "Ling 350" in the subject of any emails for this class.

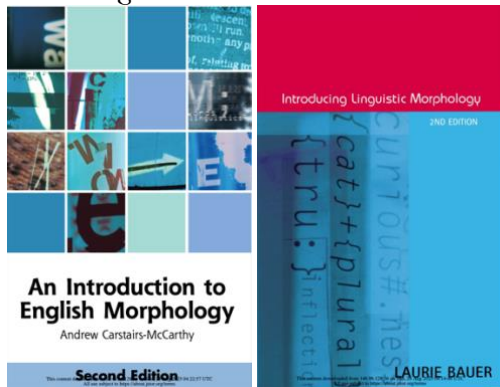
Office Hours: Mondays, 5:30–6:30pm, 2S-225 (in-person)
Email me to set up remote office hours.

Catalogue 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. For English majors and minors, this is designated as a linguistics course. NOTE: Not open to students who have already completed ENL 447. Enrollment Requirements: Prerequisite: ENG 151. Requirement Designation: Regular Liberal Arts.

I. Requirements

I.1. Readings



Expect to read about 20 pages per week from these two books:

- *An Introduction to English Morphology*, 2nd edition (2018), by Andrew Carstairs-McCarthy
- *Introducing Linguistic Morphology*, 2nd edition (2003), by Laurie Bauer

Digital copies are on the course website. You are encouraged to buy physical copies, but are by no means required to do so.

I.2. Grading

Your grade breakdown is as follows:

- Participation: 30%
- Quizzes: 20%
- Midterm: 25%
- Final: 25%

Grade Key			
A	93%+	B-	80–82%
A-	90–92%	C+	77–79%
B+	87–89%	C	70–76%
B	83–86%	D	60–69%
	F		<60%

1.2.1. *Participation*

Active and engaged participation is essential. You are expected to attend class regularly and participate in class discussions and in-class exercises. It is essential that you do the readings in order to participate actively in class discussions. Participation is worth a full 30% of your overall grade, so be sure to participate substantively at least every other week.

1.2.2. *Quizzes*

There will be a total of 11 quizzes, one given at the start of each class, on subject matter related to the reading due that day. Each quiz is graded out of a maximum of 2 points (i.e. 2% of your overall grade). The lowest-scoring quiz will be dropped, giving you a possible maximum of 20 points for your quiz grade. Quizzes are closed book.

1.2.3. *Exams*

There will be two exams: a midterm and a final. Each of these will be graded out of a maximum of 25 points (i.e. 25% of your overall grade), adding up to 50% in total. The midterm will cover weeks 1–6 and the final will cover weeks 8–13. The final is not cumulative.

Both exams are open book for any printed materials (including readings, slides, your notebook, textbooks, etc.), but you may not use your cellphone, laptop, or any device with internet connectivity during either exam. You also may not share printed materials with others in the class.

2. Policies

2.1. *Reading*

Expect to read between 20–40 pages (or about 30 minutes to two hours, depending on your reading speed) before each week's class. You are required to do all of the assigned readings. You will be quizzed on each reading at the start of class, and your participation grade depends upon you having read what you were assigned.

2.2. *Attendance*

You are expected to attend each class meeting. If you know that you will have to miss a class (due to illness, family emergency, etc.), let me know ahead of time or as soon as possible and you'll be granted an excused absence. With an excused absence, you will be able to make up that day's missed quiz during my office hour.

In the case of an unexcused absence, your quiz grade for that day will be a 0. Three or more unexcused absences will lead to a 0 for your participation grade in the course (meaning that the highest you can get in the class, if you do perfectly on everything else, would be a C).

In the case of any absence, excused or otherwise, you are responsible for doing any missed readings and being caught up on course materials.

2.3. *Artificial Intelligence*

The use of ChatGPT or similar artificial intelligence software to help you understand the reading materials is permitted. The use of this technology to generate your submission for academic work, including your responses to quizzes or exams, is completely prohibited and will result in a grade of 0 for the assignment. A second offense will lead to an F in the class.

2.4. *Academic Integrity, Plagiarism, and Cheating*

In short, there is a zero-tolerance policy for plagiarism or cheating. You are referred to the College of Staten Island's Academic Integrity Policy, found here:

<https://www.cuny.edu/about/administration/offices/legal-affairs/policies-resources/academic-integrity-policy/>

2.5. Statement on Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

You are referred to the CUNY Procedures for Implementing Reasonable Accommodations and Academic Adjustments, found here: <https://www.cuny.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/page-assets/about/administration/offices/legal-affairs/policies-resources/reasonable-accommodations-and-academic-adjustments/Reasonable-Accommodations-and-Academic-Adjustments-2016.pdf>

3. Course Calendar

On the below calendar, readings are to be done *before* the class in whose row they're listed. So, for example, you're meant to read chapters 1 and 2 in Andrew Carstairs-McCarthy's *An Introduction to English Morphology* prior to our class meeting on September 3rd.

Readings in the calendar below are abbreviated as follows:

C-M: *An Introduction to English Morphology*, 2nd ed. (2018) by Andrew Carstairs-McCarthy

B: *Introducing Linguistic Morphology*, 2nd ed. (2003) by Laurie Bauer

No.	Date	Topic	Quiz	Reading
1	August 27 th	Course introduction		
2	September 3 rd	Words, sentences, and dictionaries	1	Read C-M chapters 1 and 2.
3	September 10 th	Roots and affixes	2	Read C-M chapter 3.
4	September 17 th	Inflection	3	Read C-M chapter 4.
No classes on September 24 th .				
No classes on October 1 st .				
5	October 8 th	Derivation	4	Read C-M chapter 5.
6	October 15 th	Compounding, blending, and phrasal words	5	Read C-M chapter 6.
We won't meet on October 22 nd .				
7	October 29 th	Midterm		Study!
8	November 5 th	A word and its structure	6	Read C-M chapter 7.
9	November 12 th	Productivity	7	Read C-M chapter 8.
10	November 19 th	Historical sources of English word formation	8	Read C-M chapter 9.
11	November 26 th	Morphemes	9	Read B chapter 7.
12	December 3 rd	Morphemes II	10	Re-read B chapter 7.
13	December 10 th	Morphology + Final Review	11	Read B chapter 8.
14	December 17 th	Final		Study!