

LINGUISTICS 110: Course Syllabus
The Wonder of Words
Spring Semester 2006

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Office Hours: Mondays & Wednesdays: 1:00 to 2:00 (RCB 9210)
Or By Appointment
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Course Times: Mondays/Tuesdays/Wednesdays: 14:30-15:20
(C 9001)

General Description:

*Language is the archive of history ...
Language is fossil poetry*

Ralph Waldo Emerson

Welcome to Linguistics 110. This course is an introduction to linguistics through the medium of the English language. The vocabulary of English is studied and used to introduce linguistic principles and analyses. Topics to be explored will include the history of the English language, the history and structure of words, word relationships, and changes to words and word components.

This course will appeal to those of you who are wishing to begin your study of linguistics, those interested in the origin of words, and those wishing to improve their English vocabulary. Students of Linguistics, English literature, and English language instruction, and to arts and science students who need to enhance their formal and technical vocabularies will find this course useful.

- 1. Required Texts** (Be sure to obtain the correct editions; older editions cannot be used.)
 - i) Paul McFetridge. *A Linguistic Introduction to the Structure and History of the English Language*. Custom Courseware
 - ii) Supplemental Material

2. Recommended reference book

Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, (Tenth or Eleventh Edition)
Available also On-line: <http://www.m-w.com/>

4. Study Groups

It is strongly recommended that you get together on a regular basis with one or two of your classmates to review and discuss the course material. People have different strengths in different parts of the course, so having someone to work with can often be very helpful.

5. Obligatory Assignments

There will be 2 Assignments during the semester. These will be worth 20% of your grade. They have been tentatively set for Weeks 6 & 11. These will be paper-based. I will explain before the first assignment the procedure for receiving, completing, and submitting the assignments.

There will be practice assignments available for you to try On-line, off of the course web page.

Deadlines are strict. Assignments will be collected at the beginning of the class on the day that they are due. Late assignments not handed in, in class, at the specified time will NOT under any circumstances be graded. DON'T even think about approaching me about handing in an assignment late, and before you consider approaching me about it REMEMBER: you are NOT the exception to the rule. If you are going to be away, you are more than welcome to hand your assignment in early. There will be no make-up assignments given.

6. Course Grading

The tests are largely objective. That is, most of the questions have clearly correct answers. You will have to respond to a variety of question types: multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, short answer, etc. I will discuss the precise formats with you before the midterm and the final. You must have written the exams *in ink* if you are going to question the mark.

2 Assignments	Tentatively Weeks 6 & 11	20%
Midterm	Tentatively Week 9	35%
Final Exam	Tuesday, April 18, 2006 (8:30-11:30)	45%

Please check the final exam schedule carefully. Do not even think about asking to change the date of the final exam!!!

A missed exam equals 0% unless you are ill AND have notified me in advance (preferably by e-mail). You must also provide a medical doctor's certificate specifying the exact dates and nature of your illness. In such cases, an essay make up exam will be given.

Your final grade will be calculated using the weightings above. Weightings cannot be changed for individual class members.

Final letter grades will be based on the total percentage scores of all assignments, the midterm, and the final as follows:

100-96	A+	85-81	B+	70-66	C+	55-50	D
95-91	A	80-76	B	65-61	C	49-0	F
90-86	A-	75-71	B-	60-56	C-		

NOTE: If you wish a re-grade on either of your assignments or the Midterm or Final Exams, requests must be presented to me in writing along with the exam for consideration. Requests must be put to me within 10 days of the assignment or exam being handed back. When I re-grade the exam I will not only look at the re-grade requested but will re-grade the whole exam. Grades may go up or down accordingly. I will not consider re-grades on anything that is submitted after the 10 day period. Again, this is strictly enforced.

7. E-mail policies

E-mail is neither an efficient nor an effective way of assisting students with difficulties in this course. A problem that can be resolved with a 1 or 2 minute explanation in class or during office hours can take 15 to 30 minutes to address by e-mail. I will answer SHORT queries only, and only those that refer to administrative items. All other questions, most specifically, those related to course content must be dealt with during my office hours. If you can not make my office hours due to a course conflict please feel free to set up an appointment with me.

- PLEASE REMEMBER TO SIGN YOUR E-MAIL AND IDENTIFY YOURSELF AS A LING 110 STUDENT! I will **NOT** respond to unsigned e-mails. Make sure the Subject line contains "Ling 110".
- Please don't expect immediate responses to your e-mails. It may take a few days to receive a response. I set aside certain times during the week for responding to e-mail.
- I do not respond to email on the weekends.
- Make sure your question is stated clearly.
- Please use grammatically correct English in your emails.
- If your questions can be answered by simply looking at the syllabus, I will inform you. So please check the syllabus before putting your question to me.

8. Course Expectations

1. Students are expected to arrive on time and to attend all classes. Some of the lecture notes will not be published on the website - you are expected to take your own notes during lectures. I will occasionally publish helpful hints or supplementary information when necessary.

2. **Academic dishonesty** is a form of misconduct that is subject to disciplinary action and includes cheating, fabrication, fraud, facilitating academic dishonesty, and plagiarism. The university has very clear policies on academic dishonesty.

Information can be found by visiting the following websites:

<http://www2.reg.sfu.ca/policies/teaching/index.htm>

<http://www.reg.sfu.ca/calendar/General%20Regs.html#897900>

Any student found guilty of any form of academic dishonesty in this class will receive a written report that will be placed in the student's file in the department. As well, the student will receive a grade of zero on that particular assignment or exam.

3. Students requiring accommodations as a result of a disability must contact the Center for Students with Disabilities (604-291-3112 or csdo@sfu.ca).

4. You are all university students now and consequently you are expected to behave as such and to demonstrate the academic skills that gained you admittance to this university. Therefore I expect mature behaviour from all students which includes taking personal responsibility for your own learning. I expect all students to demonstrate a high level of independence and the ability to work and think as individuals.

5. To those of you who are on academic probation- a warning- the grade you earn is the grade you receive. I will not adjust grades at the end of the term simply because you need a higher grade to stay academically eligible. Any requests for grade raising will be seen as a form of student misconduct and will be dealt with accordingly (see academic dishonesty above).

Note:

The following will not be tolerated:

1. Disruptive behaviour, such as talking while I am lecturing.
2. Cell phones or other electronic devices making noise during class.

Topic Outline & Class Format

We will be following Dr. McFetridge's book closely. I will supplement the course material occasionally and I will let you know where the material is available to you. This additional material IS EXAMINABLE.

Also, I will occasionally post clarifications, notices, points to think about, and sundry other stuff on my website. Part of your responsibility is to check the site regularly. Material there IS EXAMINABLE unless I specifically say otherwise.

We are stuck with a lecture format for this class, but that does not mean it cannot be interactive. You should bring questions and observations to class. I will make sure that we have enough time to adequately discuss problem areas and explore in depth stuff that we really like.

Tentative Course Outline

Week 1	Introduction I. Goals & Course Structure Custom Courseware (CC) 3-5 II. Linguistic Change & the Structure of Language CC 5-20	
Week 2	Origins III. Origins	CC 21-43
Week 3	Origins III. Origins (continuation) IV. The Alphabet	CC 43-58 CC 59-76
Week 4	Structure V. The Structure of Words	CC 77-92
Week 5	Structure VI. Integration VII. Identifying Morphemes	CC 93-109 CC 111-114
Week 6	The Latin Partition VIII. The Latin Verb	CC 115-131
Week 7	The Latin Partition VIII. The Latin Verb con't IX. Latin Prefixes Assignment #1	CC 131-135 CC 137-154
Week 8	The Latin Partition X. Other Operations on Latin Roots XI. Latin Suffixes	CC 155-174 CC 175-187
Week 9	The Latin Partition XI. Latin Suffixes Review MIDTERM	CC 175-187
Week 10	The Greek Partition XII. Greek Borrowings	CC 189-210
Week 11	The French Partition XIII. After the French Invasion	CC 211-229
Week 12	The English Partition XIV. The Great English Vowel Shift Assignment #2	CC 231-249
Week 13	The English Partition Review	
Final Exam	Tuesday, April 18, 2006	(8:30-11:30)