Syllabus

COURSE SYLLABUS

Instructor Information
Information about my professional life and research interests can be found at this website.

Student Orientation Tutorial (SOT)
Under My Courses/Special Courses you will find the NExT Student Orientation Tutorial. If this is your first on-line course, it is imperative that you take this tutorial. It's an excellent introduction on how to navigate eCollege. It's also a good review if you feel rusty in eCollege operations.

Student Learning Outcomes
A student who completes English 331 will:

1. learn the linguistic components of varieties of language (phonology, morphology, syntax, etc.)
2. learn the differences between spoken and written language and the nature and history of written language
3. become aware of the constant interplay between language and society in both English-speaking and other societies that speak other languages
4. become aware of his/her attitudes to varieties of English and other languages
5. learn to respect all varieties of language

Course Policies and Procedures
This course consists of a series of activities and assessments to assist you in achieving the outcomes/objectives for the course and its instructional units/modules. You will have a reading assignment every week and every other week you will work on various combinations of discussions, assignments, journals, a quiz, and two examinations. By mid-term you should begin reading your Extended reading book, The Story of English in 100 Words by David Crystal.

For you to complete the course successfully, you will need to read all assigned readings thoroughly and critically, read a non-class-text linguistics book (see Extended Reading), prepare carefully for two examinations (the final will cover the two texts), take two quizzes, write one Journal, and participate in all class discussions.

Course Description
Language may be studied at several structural or functional levels
(such as phonology or morphology). Your attention in this course will be directed not only to the levels of language but also to components of language and society, language and the mind, etc. and to the relationships between these components and language variation within and across individuals.

You will also be encouraged in the class to examine carefully your beliefs about your own language and your attitudes toward the language varieties that you and others use. Doing so will help you better understand the change that language constantly undergoes in personal and social use. Examining your beliefs and attitudes will also help you become more aware of the variation in language use from one group to the next and from one individual to the next.

**Catalogue Course Description**

Hours: Three

ENG 331 - Introduction to Linguistics

A survey of major areas of linguistic theory: phonology, morphology, syntax, historical/comparative studies, sociolinguistics, psycholinguistics are included. Prerequisite Eng 1302.

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**Course Outline/Calendar**

Below please find each week’s work. *Each week runs from Monday to the following Sunday. Assignments are due on Sunday at midnight.*

- Week 1 January 19 - 25, 2015 Yule Chapters 1,2 Open Discussion
- Week 2 January 26 - February 1 Yule Chapter 3 Open Discussion
- Week 3 February 2 - 8 Yule Chapter 4 Discussion #1
- Week 4 February 9 - 15 Yule Chapter 5 Open Discussion
- Week 5 February 16 - 22 Yule Chapter 6 Open Discussion
- Week 6 February 23 - March 1 Yule Chapter 7 Open Discussion Quiz #1
- Week 7 March 2 - 8 Yule Chapter 9 Open Discussion
- Week 8 March 9 - 15 Yule 10 Open Discussion
- Week 9 March 16 - 22 Spring Break
- Week 10 March 23 - 29 Mid-Term Examination
- Week 11 March 30 - April 5 Yule Chapter 11 Discussion #2
- Week 12 April 6 - 12 Yule Chapter 12 Open Discussion
- Week 13 April 13 - 19 Yule Chapter 13 Open Discussion Quiz #2
- Week 14 April 20 - 26 Yule Chapter 14 Discussion #3
- Week 15 April 27 - May 3 Yule Chapter 15, 16 Open Discussion
- Week 16 May 4 - 10 Yule 17, 18 Open Discussion, Journal
- Week 17 May 11 - 17 Final Examination Week
Textbooks


Extended Reading

Our theme for the extended reading portion of the course for this semester is the history of English in the world. David Crystal details for us in his recent work, *The Story of English in 100 Words*, how, through the use of 100 representative words, Anglo-Saxon developed into Modern English. I would suggest you begin reading Crystal at the latest by mid-term (after the mid-term examination in Week 9). Of course you can begin earlier, but the book should not be referred to in Discussions or questions until after Week 9. It's a second-part-of-the-semester activity, much like a term paper would be. It's a fascinating read, and it will open your eyes to the real situation regarding the position of English world-wide. Enjoy!

Communication:

**Virtual Office and e-mail**

Please post questions about the course and materials in the Virtual Office under Course Home at the top of the navigation menu on the left so all students can benefit from your question and from answers by me and other students' answers. I check the Virtual Office once a week, so for urgent, as well as private, issues send me an e-mail. While I have access to it, I won't normally check the Student Lounge, which is intended for interactions among the students of this course.

If in doubt, e-mail is the best option to get in touch with me; if your question is of general relevance, I'll post the answer anonymously to the whole class.

Grading policy

First and foremost, I want to make it clear that this is not a correspondence course in which you work at your own pace to complete assignments and examinations. This is a paced on-line course in which you will be expected to read and complete assigned work according to given deadlines. Therefore, at the beginning of each week, check all materials and assignments for that week, plan ahead, and ask any questions you might have. Don't log in for the first time in a given week on Sunday afternoon!

It is my policy not to accept late work. I will give you what I consider ample time to complete your readings and assignments, so I expect work to be turned in on time. Work that is late will receive zero points. Make it a habit, however, not to wait until 11:59 to turn in an assignment because it takes a few minutes for eCollege to log in your assignment. You should turn in your work well ahead of the deadline.

If you have any questions about this policy, please contact me.

Here is a preliminary breakdown of the components of grades:
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<td>Final Examination</td>
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<tr>
<td>Discussions (3)</td>
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<td>C</td>
<td>224-255</td>
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<td>D</td>
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<td>F</td>
<td>191 &amp; below</td>
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**Submitting Journals**

Journals in English 331 should be done using the eCollege **Journal** function found above in the Tool Bar. No journal will be accepted by e-mail. Each journal entry will have a prompt that you will see when you click Journal under the week's work.

Remember that your work should be submitted using *Microsoft Word* (either PC or Mac) format (.doc or .docx).

**You are responsible for sending me a file I can read on time. If I can't read your very first submission, I will alert you and give you the opportunity to correct the problem. After the first time, if you submit work that I can't read, you will be given zero points on that assignment if the due date has passed. Please remember that your name should be on all work you submit.**

**Discussion Guidelines**

In conducting a Discussion, please keep in mind the following parameters:

**Please submit no more than two postings.** The first one should be a question about, a reaction to or a personal example of something in the Discussion prompt or the Chapter Overview. This should be about 300 to 400 words in length (minimum 300, maximum 400). The second posting should be your reaction to another classmate's posting. This second posting should be about 100 words minimum and 200 words maximum. Putting what we want to say in briefer form is actually much harder than writing with no length limit. Discussions will run from Wednesday to Sunday midnight on weeks they are assigned.
There are a number of reasons why I am asking that you follow these instructions. **One**, as I stated above, is that it's more of a challenge in writing to put what we want to say in condensed form than it is to write without limits. We all need to learn how to write in this manner because it's the way writing often takes place in the real world. **Two**, if there are no limits, then there is too much material being posted and it is impossible for us to have a true discussion, i.e., reacting to what someone else has posted. **Three**, I also want to take part in the discussions, but if there are too many ideas, questions, queries, it's impossible to keep up. I jump in selectively because I want you too to react to other students’ questions, and we generate plenty of questions by keeping within the limits.

If you do not follow the above instructions, points will be deducted from your Discussion mark for the week. Happy Talking!

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**Open Discussions**

Every other week we shall have an **Open Discussion**. This is a place for you to express opinions, ask questions, and make general comments about the readings. **Open Discussions** are not graded and it is not mandatory that you participate (unlike **Discussions** which are assignments and graded). **Discussion Guidelines** to not apply to **Open Discussions**, i.e., you may contribute as much as you desire (but see Netiquette).

Feel free in an **Open Discussion** to make your own contribution, to respond to another student's contribution, or to answer another student's question. Remember too that rules of Online Courtesy apply in both **Open Discussions** as well as **Discussions**.

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**Student Technical Support & Library Access**

**Course Concerns:**

If you have questions pertaining to the content of this course (e.g., questions about an exam, about course due dates, etc.), please contact your instructor via email, through the "Virtual Office," or during office hours.

**Other Questions/Concerns:**

Contact the appropriate TAMU-C department relating to your questions/concern. If you are unable to reach the appropriate department with questions regarding your course enrollment, billing, advising, or financial aid, please call 903-886-5511 between the hours of 8:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

**Student Code of Conduct:**

The A&M-Commerce Student **Guidebook** (page 55) details student rights and explains grievance procedures. The guidebook includes the Student Code of Conduct.

**eCollege Technical Concerns:**

Please contact the eCollege HelpDesk, available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. by sending an email directly to helpdesk@online.tamuc.org. You may
also reach the HelpDesk by calling (toll-free) 1-866-656-5511 OR 720-920-6656. The eCollege Helpdesk may also be reached through Chat by clicking on the 'Help' link at that top of this page, and then clicking on the 'Contact Help Desk' link.

Accessing Library Databases & Tutorials:
To access the Library databases and Library tutorials you must open a separate browser session. Minimize your eCollege session and open another browser window going to the Library's web site directly: http://www.tamuc.edu/library not from within eCollege.

Currently enrolled students wanting to access databases from abroad:
1. Install the VPN client software from: https://vpn.tamuc.edu.
2. Open the installed VPN application and enter personal login information as follows:
   
   Login: student\(your CWID)   (Example: student\12345678)
   
   Password: (enter your myLeo password)

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**Plagiarism, ADA Academic Honesty Statement, Student Conduct**

The official departmental policy: "Instructors in the Department of Literature and Languages do not tolerate plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty. Instructors uphold and support the highest academic standards, and students are expected to do likewise. Penalties for students guilty of academic dishonesty include disciplinary probation, suspension, and expulsion. (Texas A&M University-Commerce Code of Student Conduct 5.b [1,2,3])

If you ever have any questions about a particular use of a source, always ask your instructor. They want you to avoid plagiarism, too, so they will help you do so whenever and wherever they can. Do what you can to take advantage of this support—to look innocent in addition to being innocent when it comes to charges of plagiarism. Students guilty of academic dishonesty of plagiarism can expect to fail the assignment in question or the entire course depending on the nature of the incident. See your Writing at Texas A&M University-Commerce Guide (a required text for this course) for more information.)

On University-Sanctioned Activities To accommodate students who participate in university-sanctioned activities, the First-Year Composition Program offers sections of this course at various times of the day and week. If you think that this course may conflict with a university-sanctioned activity in which you are involved--athletics, etc.--please see your instructor after class on the first day.

**University Specific Procedures**
*Statement on behalf of students with disabilities*

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be
guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:
Office of Student Disability Resources and Services Texas A&M University-Commerce
Gee Library 132
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148
StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu

Conduct
All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See Code of Student Conduct from Student Guide Handbook).

Late Work Policy
No late work will be accepted. No exceptions. Work should be submitted by midnight, Central time, on the due date that is given in the week’s assignment.

Examinations should also be submitted during the time frame specified for each. No exceptions. Failure to submit an examination on time will result in a zero grade.

Having said that, I do realize that unforeseen circumstances can occur in our lives, so if that is the case, please let me know as soon as possible, which in almost all cases means in advance, what is going on and adjustments can possibly be made in the Late Work Policy.

Drop Course Procedure
A student may now drop a course by logging into their myLEO account. After logging into the myLEO account click on the hyperlink labeled 'Drop a class' from among the choices found under the myLEO section of the Web page. The student will then select the class they wish to drop along with the reason for dropping the class. Once the drop request is completed by the student it will then be routed to the instructor for approval.

Upon instructor approval the student drop request will be sent to the Office of the Registrar for processing. A student may access myLEO to view their drop and they should also receive an email notification to their myLEO email.