

**ENG 372 "The English Language" (3 credit hrs)/Course syllabus
Section 01 (CID# 1779): TuTh 11:00-12:20, Room: Evans 258**

Spring 2008

Professor: S. Helena Halmari

Office: Evans 112

Phone: 936-294-1420,¹ e-mail: eng_shh@shsu.edu, fax: 936-294-1408

Office hours: M & Th 17:00-18:00, Tu & Th 12:30-14:00, and by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES:

This course serves as a basic introduction to issues in English linguistics, focusing on those areas to which elementary education majors in particular would need to be exposed, including *psycholinguistics*, (issues of language and the brain, language acquisition and language learning), *sociolinguistics* (language in society, especially language in educational settings, language policy, and issues of dialect and register variation), and *pragmatics* (language in context). The students will also be introduced to the place and history of the English language among the languages of the world and the structure of English, starting from its smallest building blocks—the sound system—and proceeding to the investigation of how words, sentences, and discourse are made up.

The purpose of this course is to enhance your awareness of the nature of human language in general and your understanding of the structure and use of English in particular. Through learning the basics of linguistic analysis, the goal is to achieve a better understanding of how language—such an integral part of our lives—functions: what we can do with language, and what language can do to us.

REQUIREMENTS/ATTENDANCE: The course comprises of readings (a textbook, *Language Files*, 10th edition), lectures, discussions, homework exercises, four quizzes, an in-class midterm, and an in-class final exam.

Bring your textbook to class (we will regularly go over exercises in the book) and attend regularly. For administrative purposes, you need to sign in when you attend class, but there is no participation requirement, except on test days. However, your regular attendance will greatly enhance your chances of doing well. You should not miss any tests, but if you must (because of an illness or another acceptable excuse such as death in the family), there is one make-up day at the end of the semester (May 8, time TBA). You will have to make up all missed tests during that day. There is no “extra credit”; however, some tests may include an opportunity for a few extra credit points. The quizzes and the midterm will be graded promptly and returned to you in class.

GRADING:	90-100 (A)	EVALUATION:	Quizzes (4 x 10%)	40 %
	80-89 (B)		In-class midterm	30 %
	70-79 (C)		In-class final	30 %
	60-69 (D)			
	0-59 (F)			

REQUIRED TEXT:

Bergmann, A., Hall, K. C., and Ross, S. M. (eds). 2007. *Language files: Materials for an*

¹ Since Sam Houston State University no longer pays for its English professors' long-distance phone calls, send me an email if you need me to reply to your message in case you do not have a Huntsville phone number.

introduction to language and linguistics. 10th ed. Columbus: Ohio State University Press.

SYLLABUS (The syllabus may be subject to change.)

READINGS

Th 1/17	Introduction. Knowledge of language		
Tu 1/22	Knowledge of language cont. Human language and other animal communication systems	Files 1 Files 14	
Th 1/24	Phonetics The vocal tract <i>Last day to register and process schedule changes.</i>	Files 2.0-2.1	
Tu 1/29	Phonetics: Consonants	Files 2.2	
Th 1/31	Phonetics: Vowels <i>(Feb. 1: Last day to drop without a "Q". Degree applications due for May 2008.)</i>	File 2.3	
Tu 2/5	Phonetics cont. Suprasegmentals Exercises	File 2.4 File 2.5 File 2.8	
Th 2/7	Phonology	Files 3.0-3.2	
Tu 2/12	Phonology	File 3.3-3.6	(selected exercises)
Th 2/14	Quiz 1	Files 1-3, 14	
Tu 2/19	Morphology	File 4.0-4.1	
Th 2/21	Morphology In-class Tutorial	Files 4.2-4.6	(selected exercises)
Tu 2/26	Quiz 2	Files 4	
Th 2/28	Syntax	Files 5.0-5.4	
Tu 3/4	Syntax	Files 5.5-5.7	(selected exercises)
Th 3/6	Quiz 3 <i>(March 7: Last day for dropping without grade of F. Degree applications due for August 2008.)</i>	Files 5	

Tu 3/11	<i>Spring break</i>		
Th 3/13	<i>Spring break</i>		
Tu 3/18	Review for midterm	Files 1-5, 14	
Th 3/20	In-class midterm	Files 1-5, 14	
Tu 3/25	Semantics	Files 6.0-6.6	(selected exercises)
Th 3/27	Pragmatics	Files 7.0-7.4	
Tu 4/1	Pragmatics	Files 7.5-7.6	(selected exercises)
Th 4/3	Language acquisition	Files 8.1-8.2	
Tu 4/8	Psycholinguistics: Language acquisition cont.	Files 8.3-8.6	
Th 4/10	Psycholinguistics: Processing, disorders	File 9	
Tu 4/15	Quiz 4	Files 6-9	
Th 4/17	Language variation	Files 10.0-10.2	
Tu 4/22	Language variation	File 10.3-10.5	
Th 4/24	Language contact	Files 11	
Tu 4/29	History of English	Files 12.0-12.3	
Th 5/1	History of English	Files 12.4-12.6	
Tu 5/6	Language and culture Language and education	Files 13.0-13.3 Lecture and discussion	
Th 5/8	Review for final	Files 6-13	
<u>May</u>	In-class final exam (Grades will be filed by Monday, May 19, 9 a.m.)	Files 6-13, lectures, handouts exercises, discussions, etc.	

Also, *nota bene*:
Academic dishonesty.

All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials. For a complete listing of the university policy, see:

<http://www.shsu.edu/administrative/faculty/sectionb.html#dishonesty>

If you cheat during a tests (quizzes or exams) (e.g. from the notes, from books, from your peers' papers, or any other way, you will receive an automatic F for that test.

American with Disabilities Act. It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance are expected to visit with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Counseling Center. They should then make arrangements with their individual instructors so that appropriate strategies can be considered and helpful procedures can be developed to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired. SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If a student has a disability that may affect adversely her/his work in this class, then the student is encouraged to register with the SHSU Counseling Center and to talk with the instructor about how best to deal with the situation. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: no accommodation can be made until the student registers with the Counseling Center.

Religious Holidays. Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence. "Religious holy day" means a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20, Tax Code.

Visitors in the Classroom. Unannounced visitors to class must present a current, official SHSU identification card to be permitted into the classroom. They must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. If the visitor is not a registered student, it is at the instructor's discretion whether or not the visitor will be allowed to remain in the classroom. This policy is not intended to discourage the occasional visiting of classes by responsible persons. Obviously, however, the visiting of a particular class should be occasional and not regular, and it should in no way constitute interference with registered members of the class or the educational process.

Instructor Evaluations. Students will be asked to complete a course/instructor evaluation form toward the end of the semester.

Study Tips. Come and see the instructor immediately when you have questions. Utilize the services of the SAM Center and the Writing Center. Ask for tutors who are knowledgeable in linguistics (names will be provided in the beginning of semester).

Classroom Rules of Conduct. The Code of Student Conduct and Discipline is found at the following link:

<https://www.shsu.edu/students/guide/dean/codeofconduct.html>. Section 5.2.22 defines classroom disturbances. You may enter the classroom a few minutes late if you do it quietly and unobtrusively. Traffic during class is to be avoided. Should you need to leave during class for an important appointment, please notify the instructor before class starts. Cellular phones and other typical disturbances need to be turned off/silent. Should your phone ring during class, you must pick up the call; the class will then proceed to analyze your phone conversation for its sociolinguistic and pragmatic aspects.