

Time: Thursday, 6-8:50 p.m.  
Room: Evans 262  
Professor: Helena Halmari  
Office: Evans 112  
Tel. 936 294 1420  
Email: [eng\\_shh@shsu.edu](mailto:eng_shh@shsu.edu)  
Office hours: M & Th 17:00-18:00, Tu & Th 12:30-14:00, and by appointment

**Description of the course/Objectives:**

An important practical application of linguistics involves the analysis of literary texts. The purpose of this course is to give you the tools—the basic vocabulary and methodologies of modern linguistics—to carry out linguistic analyses of poetry, drama, and prose. The tools you will acquire will allow you to address the following types of questions—and many more:

- ◆ Why is Hawthorne's prose referred to as descriptive?
- ◆ What linguistic features distinguish Faulkner from Hemingway?
- ◆ What makes a poem 'feel' 'soft'/'harsh'/'\_\_\_\_'(fill your own adjective)?
- ◆ How are authors' world views reflected in the language they use?
- ◆ How does a literary dialogue reflect a 'real' dialogue—or not?
- ◆ How do we know that an author is being sarcastic?

The course covers the areas of phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, pragmatics, and discourse analysis, and we will look at samples from these areas of linguistics as they are applied to the study of literary texts. We will look at different genres and will investigate the varying linguistic manifestations of the writers' styles. A key premise of this course is the belief that understanding the linguistic features of a text leads to a deepened understanding of the text itself.

**Required texts:**

Carter, Ronald, Goddard, Angela, Reah, Danuta, Sanger, Keith, and Bowring, Maggie. 2006. *Working with texts: A core introduction to language analysis*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. London and New York: Routledge. ISBN 0415234654

Simpson, Paul. 2004. *Stylistics: A resource book for students*. London and New York: Routledge. ISBN 0415281059

Selected articles (see a separate list).

**Course requirements:<sup>1</sup>**

- Regular attendance, completion of all the readings and assignments, and participation in class discussions 10 %
- Presentations of the articles in the reading packet (Distribute study questions a week before your presentation) 10 %
- Presentation of a journal article selected by you 5 %
- Exam on Carter *et al.*, Simpson, and the lectures 20 %
- A 200-word research paper abstract 10 %
- Annotated bibliography for the research paper 5 %
- An original, substantial research paper 40 %

**SYLLABUS (the syllabus is subject to change):**

January 17	Introduction/Overview
January 24	Carter <i>et al.</i> , Units 1: Signs and sounds Carter <i>et al.</i> , Unit 2: Words and things
January 31	Carter <i>et al.</i> , Unit 3: Sentences and structures Carter <i>et al.</i> , Unit 4: Text and context: Written discourse
February 7	Carter <i>et al.</i> , Unit 5: Text and context: Spoken discourse
February 14	Simpson, Introduction: Key concepts in stylistics (pp 1-48) Simpson, Development: Doing stylistics (pp 49-96))
February 21	Manuscript research. Guest lecture by Professor Rob Adams.
February 28	Simpson, Exploration: Investigating style (pp 97-146)
March 6	Analyzing poetry. Guest lecture by Professor John Schwetman. Email (for approval) your research paper topic & research question(s) Simpson, Extension: Readings in stylistics (pp 147-223)
March 13	<i>Spring break</i>
March 20	Exam on Carter <i>et al.</i> , Simpson, and the lectures Email (for approval) the bibliographic information for the journal article you want to present.

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<sup>1</sup> While there is no formal prerequisite, you are strongly urged to read one of the standard scholarly introductions to linguistics. Having taken either ENG 372 (Introduction to Linguistics/The English Language) or ENG 373 (English Grammar) also gives you the necessary background.

- March 27                      Presentation and discussion of reading packet articles.  
 Topic: On linguistic analysis of literature  
                                       Jacobson  
                                       Carter and Simpson  
                                       Taylor and Toolan  
                                       Fowler  
                                       Noguchi
- April 3                         A 200-word research paper abstract due. Present briefly your  
 research topic and your research question(s) in class.  
 Presentation and discussion of reading packet articles.  
 Topic: Linguistic approaches  
                                       Rothwell  
                                       Jucker  
                                       O'Connell, Kowal & King
- April 10                        Presentation and discussion of reading packet articles.  
 Topic: Linguistic approaches cont.  
                                       Östman  
                                       Halliday  
                                       Kennedy  
 Also, read: Tan (1998). Advice on doing your stylistics  
 essay on a dramatic text.
- April 17                        Presentation of journal articles selected by you.
- April 24                        Presentation and discussion of reading packet articles.  
 Topic: Genres (poetry and prose)  
                                       Haynes  
                                       Rodger  
                                       Williams  
                                       Simpson  
                                       Toolan  
 Annotated bibliography for the research paper due.
- May 1                            Presentation and discussion of reading packet articles.  
 Topic: Genres (drama)  
                                       Culpeper, Short & Verdonk  
                                       Short  
                                       Cooper  
                                       Bennison  
                                       Freeman
- May 8                            Research paper presentations.

Research papers are due *in hardcopies* in 112 or my mailbox by 9 p.m. on the day of the final.

Grades will be filed by 9 a.m. May 19.