

**ENG 372 "The English Language"
Section 02 (CID# 7346) MTWThF 12:00-1:50, Evans 351**

Summer 2008

Professor: S. Helena Halmari

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Office hours: Daily between 3-4, by appointment, starting from Tuesday, June 1.

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, such as psycholinguistics, (issues of language and 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: The course comprises of readings, lectures, discussions, homework assignments (2 graded and several non-graded ones), a video, two 1-hour-long tests, and an in-class final exam.

Bring your textbook to class (we will frequently go over exercises in the book) and attend regularly. All the assignments need to be turned in on the assigned dates for credit.

EVALUATION: 2 assignments (2 x 10%)	20 %
2 x 1-hour tests (2 x 20%)	40 %
In-class final (comprehensive)	40 %
Extra credit assignment	3 % (due on Friday, June 1)

REQUIRED TEXT:

Language files: Materials for an introduction to language and linguistics. 9th ed.
Columbus: Ohio State University Press.

SYLLABUS¹

TOPIC/READINGS

W May 30

The course begins

¹ The syllabus may be subject to change.

Distribution of syllabus.
Introduction: Knowledge of language
Human language and other animal communication systems
Video: "American tongues"

Th May 31

Discussion of the video
Sociolinguistics: Language variation
Files 1, 2, & 10

F June 1

Extra credit assignment due (max. 3 % of grade)
Sociolinguistics cont.
Phonetics: Consonants
Files 3.1-3.3

M June 4

Phonetics: Vowels
Exercises
Files 3.3-3.8
Last day to drop without a "Q"

Tu June 5

Exercises TBA
Phonology
Files 4.1-4.2

W June 6

Phonology
Files 4.3-4.7

Th June 7

Assignment #1 due (10% of grade)
Morphology
Files 5.1-5.3

F June 8

Morphology
Files 5.4-5.6

M June 11

Test #1 (20% of grade)

Tu June 12

Syntax
Files 6.1-6.3
Last day to drop without a grade "F"

W June 13

Syntax
Files 6.4-6.6

Th June 14

Syntax cont.
Semantics
Files 7

Assignment #2 due (10% of grade)

F June 15	<i>No class</i>
M June 18	Semantics cont. Pragmatics Files 8.1-8.6
Tu June 19	Pragmatics cont.
W June 20	Psycholinguistics: Language disorders Files 9.1-9.2
Th June 21	Psycholinguistics Files 9.3-9.9
F June 22	<i>No class/Last day for resignations</i>
M June 25	Test #2 (20% of grade)
Tu June 26	Language contact Language and education Files 11
W June 27	History of the English language Language change Files 12.1-12.3
Th June 28	Review Files 1-12
F June 29	IN-CLASS FINAL EXAM (40% of grade) (The grades will be filed by noon, Tuesday, July 3)

Also, nota bene: Student Absences on Religious Holy Days Policy 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. Section 51.911(a)(2) defines religious holy days as: "a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20, Tax Code...." 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. University policy 861001 provides the procedures to be followed by the student and instructor. A student desiring to absent himself/herself from a scheduled class in order to observe (a) religious holy day(s) shall present to each instructor involved a written statement concerning the religious holy day(s). The instructor will notify the student of a reasonable timeframe in which the missed assignments and/or examinations are to be completed. *Americans With Disabilities Act:* SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If you have a disability that may affect adversely your work in this class, then I encourage you to register with the SHSU Counseling Center and to talk with me about how I can best help you. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: no accommodation can be made until you register with the Counseling Center. Please contact the Chair of the Committee for Continuing Assistance for Disabled Students and Director of the Counseling Center, Lee Drain Annex, or by calling 294-1720. *For the policy regarding academic dishonesty, check the following link:* <http://www.shsu.edu/administrative/faculty/sectionb.html#dishonesty>