

ENG 372 "The English Language"/Course syllabus

Fall 2007

Section 01 (CID# 5225): TuTh 09:30-10:50, Room: Evans 262

Section 02 (CID# 5226): TuTh 11:00-12:20, Room: Evans 262

Professor: S. Helena Halmari

Office: Evans 112

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Office hours: Tuesday 02:00-03:00, Thursday 05:00-06:00, 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: The course consists of readings (a textbook, *Language Files*), lectures, discussions, homework exercises, four quizzes, an in-class midterm, and an in-class final exam.

Bring your textbook to class (we will frequently 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. 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 (Thursday, December 6, time TBA). You will have to make up all missed tests during that day.

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:

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.

Bergmann, A., Hall, K. C., and Ross, S. M. (eds). 2007. *Language files: Materials for an introduction to language and linguistics*. 10th ed. Columbus: Ohio State University Press.

SYLLABUS (The syllabus may be subject to change.)

READINGS

Tu 8/21	Introduction. Knowledge of language	
Th 8/23	Knowledge of language cont. Human language and other animal communication systems	Files 1 Files 14
Tu 8/28	Phonetics The vocal tract	Files 2.0-2.1
Th 8/30	Phonetics: Consonants	Files 2.2
Tu 9/4	Phonetics: Vowels	File 2.3
Th 9/6		Phonetics cont. File 2.4 Exercises File 2.8
	<i>(Sept. 5: Last day to drop without a "Q")</i>	
Tu 9/11	Suprasegmentals Phonology	File 2.5 Files 3.0-3.2
Th 9/13		Phonology File 3.3-3.6 (selected exercises)
Tu 9/18	Quiz 1	Files 1-3, 14
Th 9/20		Morphology File 4.0-4.1
Tu 9/25		Morphology Files 4.2-4.6 (selected exercises)
Th 9/27	Quiz 2 (45-minutes)	Files 4
Tu 10/2		Syntax

		5.0-5.3	Files
Th 10/4		Syntax	Files
		5.4-5.5	
Tu 10/9		Syntax	Files
		5.6-5.7 (selected exercises)	
	<i>(October 10: Last day for dropping without grade of F. Last day for resignations without WP or WF marks.)</i>		
Th 10/11		Quiz 3	Files 5
Tu 10/16	Review for midterm	Files 1-5, 14	
Th 10/18	In-class midterm	Files 1-5, 14	
Tu 10/23		Semantics	Files
		6.0-6.6 (selected exercises)	
Th 10/25	Pragmatics	Files 7.0-7.4	
Tu			10/30
			Pragmatics
			Files
			7.5-7.6
			(selected exercises)
Tu 11/6		Psycholinguistics: Language acquisition cont.	Files
		8.3-8.6	
Th 11/8		Psycholinguistics:	

Processing, disorders
Files 9

Tu 11/13 **Quiz 4**
Th 11/15 Language variation

Files 6-9
Files 10.0-10.2

Tu 11/20
Language variation
File
10.3-10.5

Th 11/22 *Thanksgiving holiday*

Tu 11/27 Language contact
Files 11

Th 11/29 History of English
Files 12.0-12.6

Tu 12/4
Language and culture
Files
13.0-13.3

Language and education

Lecture and discussion

Th 12/6
Review for final

Files
6-13

_____ **In-class final handouts**
(Grades will be filed by Monday, December 17, 9 a.m.)

Files 6-13, lectures, 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>

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 a religious holy day as: "a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20...." 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 complete a form notifying the student of a reasonable timeframe in which the missed assignments and/or examinations are to be completed. For a complete listing of the university policy, see:

http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf_www/aps/documents/861001.pdf

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES POLICY:

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 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. For a complete listing of the university policy, see: http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf_www/aps/811006.pdf

VISITORS IN THE CLASSROOM:

Only registered students may attend class. Exceptions can be made on a case-by-case basis by the professor. In all cases, visitors must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. Students wishing to audit a class must apply to do so through the Registrar's Office.

INSTRUCTOR EVALUATIONS:

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

STUDENT CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINE:

1 Acquaintance with Policies, Rules, and Regulations. Each student is expected to be fully acquainted and comply with all published policies, rules, and regulations of the component, copies of which shall be available to each student for review online and/or at various locations on each campus. Students are also expected to comply with all federal and state laws.

2 Student Misconduct. Each student is expected to act in a manner consistent with the component's functions as an educational institution, including off campus conduct that is likely to have an adverse effect on the component or on the educational process. No person or group of persons acting in concert may willfully violate the following rules. Specific examples of misconduct for which students may be subject to disciplinary action include, but are not limited to, the following:

- (1) Commission of an act that would constitute an offense under appropriate federal, state, or municipal law.
- (2) Violation of any Regents' rule, regulation, or order or component policy, rule, or regulation, including any rule or regulation governing residential living in component-owned facilities or breach of a residential living contract.
- (3) Failure to comply with the direction of a component official acting in the performance of his or her duties; or, failure to heed an official summons to the office of a component official within the designated time.
- (4) Giving false testimony or other evidence at a campus disciplinary or other administrative proceeding.
- (5) Failure to meet financial obligations to the component.
- (6) Unauthorized use or possession of ammunition, firearms, illegal knives (knives with blades longer than five and one-half inches, hand instruments designed to cut or stab another by being thrown, stilettos, poniards, Bowie knives, swords, and/or spears), or other illegal weapons on component property.
- (7) Conduct that significantly endangers the health or safety of other persons, including members of the component community or visitors on the campus, including, by way of example, unauthorized throwing of any

objects in or from component facilities.

(8) Stealing, destroying, defacing, damaging, or misusing component property (including misuse of fire or life-safety equipment or property) or property belonging to another.

(9) Engaging in hazing or voluntarily submitting to hazing, including an initiation by an organization that involves any dangerous, harmful, or degrading act to a student. Violation of this policy renders the student(s) involved and the organization subject to discipline.

(10) Possessing and/or using, without authorization according to the component policy, intoxicating beverages in a classroom building, laboratory, auditorium, library building, faculty or administrative office, residence hall or apartment, intercollegiate and intramural athletic facility, or any other public campus area, or being intoxicated in any public area of the campus.

(11) Gambling in any form on component property.

(12) Illegal possession, use, sale, or distribution of any quantity, whether usable or not, of any drug, narcotic, or controlled substance.

(13) Advocating or recommending, either orally or in writing, the conscious and deliberate violation of any federal, state, or local law. Advocacy means addressing an individual or group for imminent action and steering it to such action as opposed to the abstract espousal of the moral propriety of a course of action.

(14) Forgery, alteration, or misuse of component documents, forms, records, or identification cards; or issuance of a check to the component or its contractors without sufficient funds.

(15) All students must carry and when requested by a University Official furnish their Bearkat One ID card. Any falsification, misrepresentation or other misuse of the Bearkat OneCard is prohibited.

(16) Unauthorized possession, ignition, or detonation, on component property, of any explosive device, fireworks, liquid, or object that is flammable or capable of causing damage by fire or explosion to persons or property.

(17) Unauthorized entry into or use of component buildings, facilities, equipment, or resources, or possession or use of component keys for unauthorized purposes.

(18) Failure to maintain a current official mailing address in the Registrar's office and/or giving a false or fictitious address to a component office or official.

(19) Making false alarms or reports where the person knowingly initiates, communicates, or circulates a report of a present, past, or future bombing, fire, offense, or other emergency that is known as false or baseless and that would ordinarily cause action by an official or volunteer agency organized to deal with emergencies; place a person in fear of imminent serious bodily injury; or prevent or interrupt the occupation of a building, room, aircraft, automobile, or other mode of conveyance.

(20) Harassment where the individual intentionally threatens, in person, by telephone, electronically, in writing, or by other means, to take unlawful action against any person and by this action intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly annoys or alarms the recipient or intends to annoy or alarm the recipient.

(21) Academic dishonesty (see subparagraph 5.3).

(22) Campus disruptive activities (see subparagraph 5.4) or disorderly conduct on component-owned or controlled property or at a component-sponsored or supervised function that inhibit or interfere with the educational responsibility of the component community or the component's social-educational activities shall include but not be limited to: using abusive, indecent, profane or vulgar language; making offensive gestures or displays that tend to incite a breach of the peace; perpetrating fights, assaults, acts of sexual violence, abuse, or threats; or evincing some obviously offensive manner or committing an act that causes a person to feel threatened. Such prohibition includes disorderly classroom conduct that obstructs, interferes with, inhibits and/or disrupts teaching and/or related classroom activities.

(23) Using authority granted by state law, System rule, or component policy to deprive any person of his or her civil rights.

(24) Violation of component policy relating to electronic network facilities such as local area networks and the Internet.

(25) Any attempt to commit these prohibited acts.

•Use of cellular phones during class is strongly discouraged. Should your phone ring, you are obliged to answer it and carry out a conversation. The conversation will be subjected to an immediate and detailed linguistic analysis by the entire class community, with special focus on sociolinguistic variation.