English 103: The Nature and Structure of the English Language

Instructor: Olga Gladkova, ogladkov@artsmail.uwaterloo.ca, PAS 1061, 888-4567 x 2563
Class/ Schedule: 4711; Mon., Wed., Fri., 12:30-01:20, HH 150
Office Hours: Friday, 1:45-2:45 pm, or by appointment.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
Language plays a fundamental role in our communication and thinking, cultural and social life. The goal of this course is to bring the English language into focus. We will look at the history and variation of English and discuss its structure and contemporary state. We will also talk about the methods and applications of linguistic analysis and interpret messages contained in English usage.

READINGS

Required texts:
English 103A Course Reader.

Library reserves:

Other sources:

ASSIGNMENT DESCRIPTION and ASSESSMENT

Research paper (35%): Due at the end of the term. You can focus your work on any of the aspects of the English language and methods of analysis discussed during the term. One month before the final submission you will be invited to talk to me about the relevance of your approach and your sources.

Reading/ Activity file (25%): This grade will be derived from your weekly responses to the assigned readings. You are expected to digest the readings and demonstrate the pertinence (or impertinence) of the authors' ideas. By completing these tasks on time you will automatically achieve 75% of the grade. The remaining 25% will be awarded for the quality of your responses. You may skip one weekly response during the term.

Presentation (20%): Each student will make a 10-minute presentation of a publication pertaining to the English language. The presentations are meant to introduce you to different research methodologies and approaches to English. To enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of your presentation please define the terminology and use visual aids if necessary. You'll have to hand in your presentations notes for marking after the presentation.

Peer-editing & discussion (10%): Throughout the term you will be asked for feedback on your classmates' weekly reading responses and presentations. In the last seminar you will peer-edit one
another's research paper drafts. The grade will be derived from the quality of your comments and the level of your involvement in the shaping of another’s positions.

Quizzes (5%): The appropriation of terminology is an important objective of the course. The purpose of the quizzes is to regularly test your knowledge of the relevant terms.

Attendance (5%): You are expected to attend all workshops, complete all written exercises and group work, and participate in class discussions.

COURSE POLICIES

1. Attendance and participation:
Attendance and participation are of paramount importance. Much of the work will be conducted in class, including the Reading/Activity File, discussion of individual presentations, and peer-editing. Always bring your textbook and course reader to class.

2. Problems and Inquiries:
I urge you to see me about any questions or problems you may have throughout the course.

3. Submissions:
All weekly reading responses and quizzes will be submitted in class. The research papers will be handed in at the English department drop box located near the mailroom at HH 229.

   The research paper is due December 10 before 4 pm in the English Department drop box. Late papers will be penalized 2% per day late.

4. Academic Offences:
All students registered in the courses of the Faculty of Arts are expected to know what constitutes an academic offence, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for their academic actions. When the commission of an offence is established, disciplinary penalties will be imposed in accord with Policy #71 (Student Academic Discipline). For information on categories of offences and types of penalties, please consult the summary of Policy #71 which is supplied in the Undergraduate Calendar, Section 1, at http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/UW/policy_71.html). If you need help in learning how to avoid offences such as plagiarism, cheating, and double submission, or if you need clarification of aspects of the discipline policy, ask me for guidance. Other resources regarding the discipline policy are your academic advisor and the Undergraduate Associate Dean.

   Plagiarism — using someone else’s work or ideas without crediting the source — automatically causes a paper to fail and will be reported to the Associate Dean of Arts. To avoid plagiarism, provide references to all your sources. Papers handed in without appropriate references will not be graded.


   Students who believe that they have been wrongfully or unjustly penalized have the right to grieve; refer to Policy #70, Student Grievance, http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.html.

PRESENTATION SELECTIONS:


Dean, Christopher. "Is There a Distinctive Literary Canadian English?" American Speech. 38.4 (1963): 278-282. (Available online through the UW library website: e-journals)


## COURSE SCHEDULE

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<tr>
<th>Week</th>
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- Thomas and Tchudi. "Why Do Linguists Want to Describe Languages?"; "How Do Linguists Describe Languages?" From Ch. 2 of *The English Language* 45-65.  
| **Week 4 (Oct. 4-8)** | The Canadian Vernacular | - Pringle. "Attitudes to Canadian English" Greenbaum 183-205.  
- Caldwell. "But Is There an Entry for Beer Goggles?" |
| **Week 9 (Nov. 8-12)** | Rhetoric; Linguistic Analysis in Social Studies | - Booth. "Telling and Showing"  
- Lakoff and Johnson. *Metaphors We Live By*. Ch. 1 & 23. |
| **Week 10 (Nov. 15-19)** | Consultations with the instructor regarding the Research Paper | |
| **Week 11 (Nov. 22-26)** | Linguistic Analysis in Literary Theory and Cultural Studies | - Jespersen. "Shakespeare and the Language of Poetry"  
| **Week 12 (Nov. 28-Dec. 2)** | English Usage and Norm 2 Dec.: research paper draft due for peer-editing | - Bailey. "Introduction."  
<p>| <strong>Week 13 (Dec. 6)</strong> | Review and individual consultations | |</p>
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| 2 (Sept. 24) | Issues in English Language Studies | Fries. "Usage Levels and Dialect Distribution."
Finegan. "Unconscious Attitudes Towards Linguistic Variation."
Orwell. "Politics and English Usage." |
Lamy. "Français."
Görlach and Schröder. "Good Usage' in an EFL Context." |
Dean. "Is There a Distinctive Literary Canadian English?"
Graddol. "The Development of Scientific English."
Mencken. "Euphemisms."
| 6 (Oct. 22) | (Post)colonial English | Crystal. "The Future of English"; "One Language or Many?";
"Threatening English"; "English Threatened."
| 7 (Oct. 29) | Content and Form in English | Gleason. "Language."
Saussure. "Course in General Linguistics."
Abercrombie. "Extending the Roman Alphabet."
Whitehall. "The System of Punctuation."
Dijk. "Introduction: Discourse Analysis as a New Cross-Discipline."
Sherzer. "Puns and Jokes."
Geis and Salamensky. "The Talking Stage: Drama's Mono-Dialogics."
Giltrow. "Introducing Genre."
Giltrow. "Is Scholarly Style Exclusionary and Elicit?"; "Is Scholarly Style Hard to Read?"
| 8 (Nov. 5) | Discourse Analysis | King. "Godzilla vs. Post-Colonial."
Cameron. "The Tyranny of Nicespeak." |
| 9 (Nov. 12) | Rhetoric: Linguistic Analysis in Social Studies | |