University of Waterloo
Department of English
English 103A
"The Nature and Structure of the English Language"

Fall 1989
9:00-10:30 MW

Professor Jasper Neel
Office: HH 265; ext. 2118
Office hours: 10:45-noon MW

Calendar Description: Introduction to the study of the English language. Topics to be discussed include the nature and origin of language, the structure of English and its development, and the relations between language and reality.

Specific Description: The course has been designed as the first course in the University of Waterloo Honours English Rhetoric and Professional Writing Program. As such, it will introduce students to the field of professional writing, introduce them to the controversies over language and writing that have raged since Ancient Greece, introduce them to the debate over the relationship between language and knowledge, offer them an opportunity to understand how language creates community, and offer them an opportunity to experience writing in a corporate setting.


Course Requirements:

A three-page report on the work environment, job responsibilities, and writing processes of two or three professional writers

A two-page paper contrasting two notions, theories, or ideas that develop in the course

A two-page paper summarizing an idea, notion, or theory from the course that seems to have profound implications and then articulating those implications

A six-page corporate report on writing

A final examination to be given during the month of December at a time and date to be announced, the final examination to consist of twenty short-answer questions plus one essay question

Grading Policy: Each of the five course requirements carries 20 points of credit. The scale for determining final grades appears on page 1:7 of the 1989-90 Undergraduate Calendar. An asterisk beside an assignment on page two below indicates that a grade-bearing assignment is due that day. Late work will be penalized appropriately.
Daily Assignments

Sept. 11 Course introduction
13 Interfaces, 17-49
18 Interfaces, 53-81
20 Incorporation meeting
25 Workshop on three-page paper; final draft due
27 Interfaces, 272-302

Oct. 2 Interfaces, 305-341; three-page paper due*
4 Corporate meeting on professional writing
11 Phaedrus, 21-41
16 Phaedrus, 42-66
18 Phaedrus, 66-103
23 Corporate meeting on literacy, orality, language, and knowledge
25 Sophists, 3-25
30 Sophists, 27-51

Nov. 1 Workshop on two-page contrast paper; final draft due
6 Structure, 1-34; two-page contrast paper due*
8 Structure, 43-51, 92-110
13 Structure, 111-135
15 Workshop on two-page summary paper; final draft due
20 Society, 64-96; two-page summary paper due*
22 Society, 97-117
27 Society, 143-192
29 Corporate meeting on six-page paper

Dec. 4 Final lecture
6 Six-page corporate reports due before noon*
Final examination date and time to be announced*