English 103B  "Varieties of English" - Winter 1997

Revised course syllabus

(please note that this supersedes the previous course syllabus)

Instructor: Kathleen Venema
Office: PAS 2215
Extension: 3841
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Office hours: T/Th 1-2:30 pm, or by appointment

Course objectives: After completing this course, students should be able to:

i) engage in close reading of diatypic varieties of everyday language, including
   a) journalism,
   b) advertising,
   c) interviews, letters, rules, and conversation, and
   d) popular fiction;

ii) produce, in fluent oral form and in grammatically flawless written form, analyses that
    identify and explain how a variety of registers function to maintain and change power
    relations in modern society.

Course organization: This session of English 103B will consist of lectures, small- and
large-group discussions, and in-class exercises covering the main social theories of
language and methodologies of analysis.

Course texts:
103B Readings booklet (available in the UW bookstore)

Course assignments:

i) in-class test, Thursday 30 January, 15%
ii) analytical essay on the language of journalism (1000 words),
   due Thursday 13 February, 20%
iii) analytical essay on the language strategies of advertising (1200 words),
   due Tuesday 18 March, 30%
iv) final three-hour examination (date and time TBA), 35%

Detailed assignment descriptions will be provided well in advance of the due dates.
Course policies:

Assignments must be typewritten.
Late assignments will not be accepted unless:

   a) the student submits a memo to the instructor outlining the need for an extension and proposing a new deadline, and
   b) the instructor accepts the reasons for the extension and agrees to the new deadline.

University policies:

Students should ensure that they are familiar with, and that they work within, university policy as it is expressed in the UW Calendar section, "Student Academic Discipline Policy and Procedures". Because the university considers plagiarism a very serious offence for which it has specified very serious consequences, students are strongly advised to consult with the instructor if they have any questions about acknowledging their sources. UW Policy #71 currently defines plagiarism as follows:

Plagiarism . . . is the act of presenting the ideas, words, or other intellectual property of another as one's own. The use of other people's work must be properly acknowledged and referenced in all written material such as take-home examinations, essays, laboratory reports, work-term reports, design projects, statistical data, computer programs, and research results. The properly acknowledged use of sources is an accepted and important part of scholarship. Use of such material without complete and unambiguous acknowledgement, however, is an offence under this policy.