Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 10:30 to 11:20 a.m., Engineering Lecture Hall room 109

Instructor: Chris Redmond, Director, Office of Internal Communications, UW; Adjunct Lecturer, Department of English.
Office: Needles Hall 3041. I have no office hours specifically for students, but am usually in my office 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday. Telephone: 885-1211 ext. 3004. Home phone: 886-1207.

Textbook: *About Language: A Reader for Writers*, second edition, by William H. Roberts and Gregoire Turgeon. (Readings from this book are assigned for most class days. Begin the course by reading Elbow’s article on page 5 as soon as possible.) A supplementary textbook will be *Canadian Writing Workbook*, second edition, by Ronald Conrad.

Assignments and marks
There is no final examination in this course. One-tenth of the final mark will be based on contributions to class discussion, including at least one brief presentation. The other 90 per cent will be based on written work:
- Two in-class exercises, each worth 10 per cent.
- Three short assignments, each worth 10 per cent.

* A term research project, worth 40 per cent. **This paper is due Friday, December 15.**
Assignments are due at the beginning of class on the deadline days.

**Tentative schedule**
Monday, September 11. Introduction to the course.
Wednesday, September 13. The phonetic alphabet.
Friday, September 15. *Assignment 1 handed out*. What is language, anyway? The idea of “mapping”. Read Thomas, page 155, and Orwell, page 425.
Monday, September 18. Formal grammar. (With any luck, the only session that will be devoted to this topic!)
Friday, September 22. The first sentence is the important one. Read Murray, page 30, and Swift, page 41.
Wednesday, September 27. Readability measurement. Read Zinsser, page 50, and Hall, page 61.
Friday, September 29. *Assignment 1 due*. Discussion of library use and research methods.
Monday, October 2. *Assignment 2 handed out. Term project instructions handed out*, and a discussion of research in language. Read Rawlins, page 10, and Roberts, page 17.
Friday, October 6. Language in popular music.
Monday, October 9. Thanksgiving Day. No classes held.
Wednesday, October 11. Language and sex (part 1). Read Kohn, page 305.


Friday, October 20. First in-class exercise.

Monday, October 23. Accents. (No reading assignment for today!)

Wednesday, October 25. Canadian English (part 1). Read Mencken, page 193.

Friday, October 27. Canadian English (part 2). Don’t you wish there were a Canadian textbook for this course so there could be a reading assignment for today?


Wednesday, November 15. Introductions and structure of written material. (No reading assignment.)

Friday, November 17. A review of research techniques and discussion of term progress on projects.

Monday, November 20. Journalism (part 1). Read Leo, page 349.

Wednesday, November 22. Journalism (part 2).

Friday, November 24. Journalism (part 3).


Friday, December 1. Second in-class exercise.

Monday, December 4. Summary of the course.

In-class exercises

Each exercise will consist of a brief passage of text, accompanied by this question:

Describe this passage’s intended effect on the reader and the techniques by which its author aims to achieve that effect. Touch on the following questions if possible: At about what date was the passage probably written? What were its author’s sex, nationality, age, personal circumstances? What were the religious, political or social beliefs of the author, and was the reader expected to share them? What does the author want the reader to learn or believe or do? Is the author honest with the reader and with himself or herself? Is the passage as well written as it could be? Is the author successful in what he or she set out to do?