University of Waterloo

Online Course
Centre for Extended Learning

ENGL 306A

Spring 2011

Syllabus and Schedule
Communication

Email/Phone

Administrative questions should be directed to the Centre for Extended Learning office.

Technical problems with UW-ACE should be directed to Technical Support.

Questions regarding course content can be directed to your instructor, Randy Harris, at: raha@uwaterloo.ca.

Professor Harris checks email frequently and you should expect an answer to your questions by email within 48 hours (excluding weekends). Professor Harris can also be reached at the office by phone at +1 519-888-4567 ext. 35362.

Announcements

Professor Harris will make announcements as needed to communicate with students.

To ensure you are viewing the complete list of announcements, you must click ALL. Please note you may also be required to click MORE.

More | View: Past Present All | Sort: Descending

Discussion Boards

For questions relating to course content, select the Communicate tab and look at the Ask The Instructor board to post a question or read questions and answers from other students. Professor Harris will be monitoring the discussion boards daily. You should get a response to your question within 48 hours (excluding weekends).

About the Course

Course Author — Randy Harris

Randy Harris was born in the new hospital in Kitimat, B.C., in 1956. After some time there, and some more time in Campbell River, B.C., he spent an inexcusably long time moving around the continent, from university to university, getting an education.

He attended the University of Lethbridge, in Southern Alberta, mostly studying philosophy. He transferred to Queen's University, in Southern Ontario, where he earned an Honours B.A. in English Literature. He went to Dalhousie University, in Halifax, where he earned an M.A. in English Literature, specializing in Henry Fielding. Next came the University of Alberta, where he earned an M.Sc. in Experimental Linguistics, specializing in aphasia. To round things off, he went to Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, in upstate New York, where he earned an M.Sc. in Technical Communication, specializing in graphics, and a Ph.D. in Communication and Rhetoric, specializing in scientific argumentation and Chomskyan linguistics. Whew!

Upon escaping university, he worked for several years at Bell-Northern Research, in Ottawa, but somehow ended up back in university: he now teaches linguistics, rhetoric, and professional writing in the English department at the University of Waterloo.

For more information, please visit Professor Harris' Website.

Introduction and Overview

English 306A, Introduction to Linguistics, covers the core areas of linguistics: phonology, morphology,
syntax, and semantics. Linguistics is a very diverse field, and the course brushes on many other topics, but it is organized around these central areas, exploring the units and the structures that make up human languages. Phonology studies the units and structures of sound in language; morphology, the units and structures of words; syntax, of sentences; semantics, of meaning. Linguistics is a science, very different in its approach to language from the literary and rhetorical approaches with which you may be familiar. You will have to learn to see language abstractly, like a geologist looks at rocks, an astronomer at stars.

We study what it means for a native speaker to know and use a language: they need to know the sounds, the words, the way words group together, and how those word groups fit into a web of meaning. That's a lot just to get someone to pass you the salt or agree that the Leafs sucked last night, but you deploy those systems effortlessly every day. What's more, you know them pretty much the way you know how to breathe or swallow or ride a bike: at a below-the-surface level. At the surface, you don't know which of your consonants resonate out your nose. But you know extremely well below the surface, because you always send the right ones (like \([m]\) and \([n]\)) out your nose. In this course, we're going to drag that knowledge to the surface, kicking and screaming.

We're also going to see how that knowledge interacts with other, nonlinguistic areas of cognition—in particular, perception, categorization, abstraction processes, and reasoning—to get some purchase on the way we express and exchange ideas and thoughts through weird little noises or marks on a page or lines and circles on a screen, like these ones.

**Objectives**

At the end of English 306A, you should know what linguistics is—how it analyzes and accounts for language. You should also know the basic building blocks of language—phones, phonemes, morphemes, words, phrases, and sentences. You should also know the general ways in which those elements combine—the types rules and processes that arrange the basic building blocks.

Some of the tools you should acquire are the ability to analyze words and sentences at a general level, and to transcribe sounds broadly. You won't quite be ready to go into the jungles of Borneo and completely describe the grammar of an unknown language, but you should know in a basic way how someone who can perform that feat does it. You should also come to a fuller awareness of the rules in your own head: how it is that your brain stores and retrieves and decodes language.

**Grade Breakdown**

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<th>Tasks and Interactive Exercises</th>
<th>12%</th>
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<tr>
<td>Assignments</td>
<td>50%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>38%</td>
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</table>

**Materials and Resources**

The Centre for Extended Learning is no longer automatically mailing a course CD/DVD containing lectures that are also found within UW-ACE. Content available on the CD/DVD can now be downloaded free-of-charge via the Content Modules in UW-ACE. However, if you wish to purchase a CD/DVD, please visit our [online ordering system](https://uwangel.uwaterloo.ca/uwangel/Section/Content/Page.aspx?EntryI...).

**Textbook(s)**

**Required:**


**Optional:**


For textbook ordering information, please contact the [Waterloo Bookstore](https://uwangel.uwaterloo.ca/uwangel/Section/Content/Page.aspx?EntryI...).

For your convenience, you can compile booklists of required and optional textbooks based on your current courses through BookLook using your Quest userID and password (look for the [Shop Online with](https://uwangel.uwaterloo.ca/uwangel/Section/Content/Page.aspx?EntryI...)).
BookLook link in the centre-top section of the main Waterloo Bookstore page). If you are having difficulties ordering online and wish to call the Waterloo Bookstore, their phone number is +1 519 888 4673 or toll-free at +1 866 330 7933. Please be aware that textbook orders CANNOT be taken over the phone.

Resources
- UW Library (Centre for Extended Learning)

Policies

Submission Times
Please be aware that the University of Waterloo is located in the Eastern Time Zone (GMT or UTC-5 during standard time and UTC-4 during daylight saving time) and, as such, the time that your activities and/or assignments are due is based on this zone. If you are outside the Eastern Time Zone and require assistance with converting your time, please try the Ontario, Canada Time Converter.

Accommodation Due to Illness
If your instructor has provided specific procedures for you to follow if you miss assignment due dates, term tests, or a final examination, adhere to those instructions. Otherwise:

Missed Assignments/Tests/Quizzes
Contact the instructor as soon as you realize there will be a problem; follow up as quickly as possible by having a medical practitioner complete a Verification of Illness Form*. Send a scanned copy of the Verification of Illness Form to assignments@uwaterloo.ca, but please be aware that your instructor may require the original and do not lose or destroy it. In your email, provide your name, student ID number, and exactly what you missed. If your instructor agrees to re-open a time-limited component, our technical support staff will require an email from the instructor granting permission to allow you access.

Missed Final Examinations
If you miss a final examination due to illness, see a medical practitioner as quickly as possible. Submit a completed Verification of Illness Form* preferably within 48 hours, but not more than 72 hours after missing the exam. Send a scanned copy of the Verification of Illness Form by email to examinations@uwaterloo.ca. In your email, provide your name, student ID number, and the examination(s) missed. The original Verification of Illness Form will be required in order for your examination(s) to be rescheduled. Unless otherwise stated by your instructor, your academic faculty, or your department, an exam missed due to short-term illness must be written within the current term’s examination period.

* The Verification of Illness Form is normally the only acceptable medical documentation. Please make sure the medical practitioner completes the information in the "Degree and Dates of Incapacitation" section of the form.

Academic Integrity
In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo community are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. If you have not already completed the online tutorial regarding academic integrity you should do so as soon as possible. The undergraduate online tutorial can be found at http://www.lib.uwaterloo.ca/ait/ and the graduate tutorial is at http://www.lib.uwaterloo.ca/gradait/. For other information about academic integrity check www.uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/.

Discipline
A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity (check www.uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/) to avoid committing an academic offence, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who
needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about “rules” for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course instructor, academic advisor, or the undergraduate Associate Dean. For information on categories of offences and types of penalties, students should refer to Policy 71, Student Discipline, www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.htm. For typical penalties check Guidelines for the Assessment of Penalties, www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/guidelines/penaltyguidelines.htm.

Appeals
A decision made or penalty imposed under Policy 70, Student Petitions and Grievances, (other than a petition) or Policy 71, Student Discipline, may be appealed if there is a ground. A student who believes he/she has a ground for an appeal should refer to Policy 72, Student Appeals, www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy72.htm.

Grievance
A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read Policy 70, Student Petitions and Grievances, Section 4, www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.htm. When in doubt please be certain to contact the department’s administrative assistant who will provide further assistance.

Final Grades
In accordance with Policy 19, the Centre for Extended Learning does not release final examination grades or final course grades to students. Students must go to Quest to see all final grades. Any grades posted in UW-ACE are unofficial.

Note for Students with Disabilities
The Office for Persons with Disabilities (OPD), located in Needles Hall, Room 1132, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodation to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the OPD at the beginning of each academic term and for each course.

Use of Computing and Network Resources
Please see the Guidelines on Use of UW Computing and Network Resources.

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Other Sources
Respect the copyright of others and abide by all copyright notices and regulations when using the computing facilities provided for your course of study by the University of Waterloo. No material on the Internet or World Wide Web (WWW) may be reproduced or distributed in any material form or in any medium, without permission from copyright holders or their assignees. To support your course of study, the University of Waterloo has provided hypertext links to relevant Web sites, resources, and services on the Web. These resources must be used in accordance with any registration requirements or conditions which may be specified. You must be aware that in providing such hypertext links the University of Waterloo has not authorized any acts (including reproduction or distribution) which, if undertaken without permission of copyright owners or their assignees, may be infringement of copyright. Permission for such acts can only be granted by copyright owners or their assignees.
If there are any questions about this notice, please contact the University of Waterloo, Centre for Extended Learning, Waterloo, Ontario, Canada, N2L 3G1 or by email.
Course begins Monday, May 2, 2011

ALL TIMES EASTERN – Please see the Policies section for details.

The Current time in Waterloo, Ontario, Canada is 8:44:28 AM.

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<th>Week</th>
<th>Modules - Do Tasks. View Concepts. Take Notes.</th>
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<td>Read the information contained in the Course Syllabus</td>
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<td><strong>Task</strong> - Exploritorium Try This! Become a Word Historian</td>
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<td><strong>Module 03</strong>: Nature of Language and Linguistics</td>
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<td><strong>Module 04</strong>: Words/Lexicology</td>
<td>What's in a Word?</td>
<td><strong>Task</strong> - Compounding</td>
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<td>Meaningful Building Blocks</td>
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<td><strong>Task</strong> - Morphological Analysis</td>
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<td><strong>Task</strong> - Syntactic Analysis</td>
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<td><strong>Assignment #3</strong></td>
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<td>The Sounds of Language</td>
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<td>Practice Exercises, Transcription Practice</td>
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<td>Week 9</td>
<td><strong>Module 09:</strong> Semantics</td>
<td>Language, Culture, and Meaning</td>
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<td><strong>Module 10:</strong> Pragmatics</td>
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<td>Week 11</td>
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<td><strong>Module 12:</strong> Language Acquisition</td>
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<td><strong>Final Exam</strong></td>
<td><strong>Module 12:</strong> Language Acquisition</td>
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<td><strong>Final Exam</strong></td>
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**Final Examination Arrangement and Schedule**

All students taking online courses that have a final exam must provide examination arrangement information by Friday, May 20, 2011.

Examination schedule details will be available on Quest approximately four weeks prior to the exam date. For instructions on how to find exam information, go to the Quest Help page.

**Official Grades and Academic Standings are available through Quest.**

Please note: Your access to this course in UW-ACE will continue for the duration of the current term.

You will not have access to this course once the next term begins.