English 306A is an introduction to the methods and principles of language analysis. As with all surveys, only a limited number of approaches and topics can be touched upon. Nevertheless, it is hoped that you will gain an appreciation of a few of the linguistic issues which have influenced the thinking of anthropologists, psychologists, philosophers, literary critics, and linguists in the past few decades. You should also come to appreciate the power and richness and power which language affords.

306A is not a "grammar" course as "grammar" is popularly understood. We will be less concerned with the way language "ought" to be used, as defined by any authority, than with the way in which it is used by native speakers. For this reason, you should be alert to the ways in which the English language manifests itself in the world around you. Listen to its varying sounds and to the structures which it manifests, consider the nature of ambiguities and their implications, examine the way spoken language combines with gesture, attitude, and assumptions to direct understanding.


EXAMINATIONS:
20% October 15. (1 Hour)  
20% November 5. (1 Hour)  
20% November 26 (Take-home due)  
40% Final (covering all of the course). Scheduled by the university during the examination period.

TEXT READINGS: Read the assigned section before the days on which the subject is presented in lecture. It may be confusing—and "boring"—to sit through classes for which you have not prepared. A good policy is to read the entire section through once and during the time it is discussed in class re-read it at least once more. It may be useful to take notes as you read. We will devote a few minutes at the end of several periods to go over some of the exercises at the end of the chapters, collectively working them out to assure ourselves that we understand the concepts.

If you do not understand anything said in the lectures or if there is the slightest question in your mind about your reading, be sure to ask. My function is to help you in what may be an entirely new subject. You may be reluctant to speak in class—though you may be certain that if you are bewildered, you are not probably not alone and others will appreciate the clarification—and if so be sure to see me immediately during office hours.

The following are the sections in the book which will be read this term:
Chapter 1: "What is Linguistics"  
Chapter 2: "Animal Communication"  
Part Two: "The Structure of Human Language"  
Chapter 4: "Phonology..."  
Chapter 3: "Morphology..."  
Chapter 5: "Syntax..."  
Chapter 6: "Semantics..."  
Chapter 7: "Language Variation..."  
Chapter 8: "Language Change..."  
Chapter 9: "Pragmatics..."

Supplementary Reading
There are a number of good introductory linguistic texts available in the Library which may be useful to you. These generally cover the same ground as the assigned text but variation in presentation and example may make the subject clearer. I will mention only one because it provides illustrations drawn from Canadian English and is therefore of special interest to us: