English 306A

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Office Hours:
MTW 9-11:30
M 6-7
Other times by appointment

English 306A is an introduction to the methods and principles of linguistic analysis. As with all surveys, only a limited number of topics can be touched upon; nevertheless, it is hoped that you will gain an appreciation of some 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 language affords.

306A is not a "grammar" course as "grammar" is popularly understood. It is less concerned with the way language "ought" to be used than it is with the way it is used by native speakers. For this reason, you should be alert to the ways in which the English language manifests itself and the way you use it yourself. Listen to its varying sounds and to the structures which it exhibits, consider the nature of ambiguities cause by sounds and structures and the implications of these, examine the way you use gesture, attitude, and assumptions to direct understanding.

TEXT: Adrian Akmajian, Richard Demers, Robert Harnish, Linguistics. An Introduction to Language and Communication

EXAMINATIONS:
30% (1 Hour) 3 June
35% (1 Hour) 24 June
35% 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 listed to be discussed even if you fall behind in the class. It will be confusing and boring to sit through classes for which you are not prepared. A good policy is to read the entire section through once completely, and then to go back and re-read it, taking notes as you read or doing the exercises at the end of the chapter. We will devote time at the end of some periods to go over a few of the exercises from the chapters, collectively doing them to assure ourselves that we understand the concepts.

If you have any questions, be sure to ask me. My function is to help you in whatever may be a new and, at times, puzzling subject. If you are reluctant to speak in class--though you may be certain that others will also appreciate the clarification--be see me after class or during office hours.

The following topics from Akmajian et al. will be considered this term:
1. Week of 6 May.
   Introduction

2. Week of 13 May.
   Chapter 3 and Chapter 4: "Phonetics" and "Phonology."

3. Week of 20 May, No class, Victoria Day

4. Week of 27 May.
   Chapter 3 and Chapter 4: "Phonetics" and "Phonology."

5. Week of 3 June.
   Chapter 2: "Morphology. . . ."

   **Exam 1: one hour--in class.**

6. Week of 10 June.
   Chapter 5: "Syntax. . . ."

7. Week of 17 June
   Chapter 5: "Syntax. . . ."

8. Week of June 24.
   Chapter 6: "Semantics. . . ."

   **Exam 2: one hour--in class.**

9. Week of 1 July. No class, Canada Day

10. Week of 8 July.
    Chapter 7: "Language Variation. . . ."

    Chapter 8: "Language Change. . . ."

12. Week of 22 July.
    Chapter 9: "Pragmatics. . . ."

**Supplementary Reading**

There are a number of introductory linguistic texts available in the Library, many 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. The text by O'Grady and Dobrovolsky provides illustrations drawn from Canadian English and may, therefore, be of special interest:

