

Cedar Crest College

ENG 303: Linguistics and the Development of the English Language

Fall, 2008	Office Hours: by appointment
Dr. Carol Pulham	3 credits
Blaney Hall 116, ext. 4637	Prerequisite: ENG 100
610-606-4637	Lecture/Discussion Format
Home: 610-821-4097	capulham@cedarcrest.edu

Texts: Fromkin and Rodman, *An Introduction to Language*, 8th Edition
 Hayakawa, *Language in Thought and Action*

Course Content: The study of structural linguistics: phonemics, morphology, and syntax of basic descriptive linguistics, as well as a systematic study of the changes in sound and syntax from the beginning of English to the present, including etymological developments. The course also introduces semantics, bilingualism and American speech communities, gender differences, and language development in children.

Course Objectives: The main objective of this course is to increase students' understanding of human language and how it works biologically/mentally, socially, and historically. By understanding how language works, students can become more effective communicators and more understanding and acute participants in their society. By understanding how language works, teachers, in particular, will become more effective in helping their students to succeed.

Student Outcomes: Students will demonstrate knowledge of the nature of human language. Students will be able to transcribe sentences into the phonetic alphabet, to divide words and sentences into morphemes, and to diagram simple sentences using the phrase-structure system. Students will be able to summarize and describe, in writing, the major developments of the three main historical periods of the English language. Students will also research and write a paper on a topic related to the course content.

Assessment: Quizzes and exercises, three tests, and a research project will be the methods used to evaluate student outcomes. Students will also demonstrate their knowledge during class discussions.

Week 1: The Nature of Human Language

Thurs. Aug. 28	Course introduction, syllabus
	Fromkin, "What Is Language?" 1-31
	Hayakawa: Foreword; Chapter 1 "Language and Survival"

Week 2: Grammatical Aspects of Language

Thurs. Sept. 4 Fromkin, "Phonetics: The Sounds of Language" 221-250 and "Phonology: The Sound Patterns of Language" 255-298
Hayakawa: Ch. 2 "Symbols" and Ch. 3 "Reports, Inferences, Judgments"

Week 3: Grammatical Aspects of Language

Thurs. Sept. 11 Fromkin: "Morphology: The Words of Language" 71-106
Hayakawa: Ch. 4 "Contexts" Ch. 5 "The Double Task of Language"

Week 4: Grammatical Aspects of Language

Thurs. Sept. 18 Fromkin: "Syntax: The Sentence Patterns of Language" 115-163
Hayakawa: Ch. 6 "The Language of Social Cohesion" and Ch. 7 "The Language of Social Control"

Week 5: Grammatical Aspects of Language

Thurs. Sept. 25 Research Project Assigned
Hayakawa: Ch. 8, "How We Know What We Know"
Fromkin: "The Meaning of Language" 173-209
Test #1

Week 6: Social Aspects of Language

Thurs. Oct. 2 Video: #1 *Discovering the Human Language: "Colorless Green Ideas"*
Fromkin: "Language and Society" 409-453
Hayakawa: Ch. 9 "The Little Man Who Wasn't There" and Ch. 10 "Classification"

Week 7: Social Aspects of Language

Thurs. Oct. 9 Paper Topics Due
Video: Deborah Tannen, *"He Said, She Said: Gender, Language, and Communication"*
Hayakawa: Ch. 11, "The Two-Valued Orientation" and Ch. 12 "The Multi-Valued Orientation"
Fromkin: "Language Change: The Syllables of Time" 461-497

Week 8: Historical Aspects of Language

Thurs. Oct. 16 Paper topics due
Test #2
Video: *The Story of English: "The Mother Tongue"* (Old English)

Week 9: Historical Aspects of Language

Thurs. Oct. 23 Old and Middle English

Week 10: Historical Aspects of Language

Thurs. Oct. 30 Video: *The Story of English: "A Muse of Fire"*
Early Modern and Modern English
Hayakawa: Ch. 13 "Poetry and Advertising" and 14 "The Dime in the Juke Box"

Week 11: Psychological Aspects of Language

Thurs. Nov. 6 Fromkin: Ch. 2, "Brain and Language," 35-63; Ch. 8, "Language Acquisition" 313-358; and Ch. 9, "Language Processing: Humans and Computers," 363-400
Video: #2 *Acquiring the Human Language: "Playing the Language Game"*
Hayakawa: Ch. 15 "The Empty Eye" and Ch. 16 "Rats and Men"

Week 12: Psychological Aspects of Language

Thurs. Nov. 13 Video: #3 *The Human Language Evolves: "With and Without Words"*
Test #3

Thurs. Nov. 20 Oral Presentations
Research Papers Due (Full Comments)

Week 13: Summations

Thurs. Nov. 27 Thanksgiving (no class)

Week 14: Presentations of Research

Thurs. Dec. 4 Oral presentations
Research papers due (grade only)

Grading Breakdown: Quizzes, short assignments, class participation: 25%
Oral Report: 10%
Each Test: 15%
Research Paper: 20%

Research paper must be 8-10 pages typed at no larger than a 12 font size.

Since part of the grade in this class involves class participation, more than two absences may affect

your grade. Quizzes are to be announced in class ahead of time; there will be no make-up quizzes unless you make arrangements with me before the quiz is given. The same policy holds for tests. Late papers will receive lowered grades for lateness unless I have given you an extension before the due date.

It is important that you follow the Honor Philosophy at all times. Plagiarism, other forms of academic dishonesty, or significant instances of careless scholarship may result in the failure of the entire course.

Students with documented disabilities who may need academic accommodations should discuss these needs with me during the first two weeks of class. Students with disabilities who wish to request accommodations should contact the Advising Center.

Classroom Protocol: It is expected that you will abide by the Classroom Protocol Policies in the Student Handbook. In addition, students are expected to silence their cellphones and refrain from using laptop computers for any purpose during class time.