

The Structure of Modern English: Sounds and Words

ENGL 330a
2019 (Sept-Dec)

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Office Hours:
Fri: 3:00-4:00

The Structure of Modern English

Engl. 330a 2019 (Sept.-Dec.)

Professor: Jessica de Villiers

West Mall Swing Space 205

M/W/F: 2:00-2:50

Course Description:

This course explores and examines contemporary English phonology, morphology and lexical semantics. It begins with the study of speech sounds in English. We apply methods for phonetic transcription and study distinct sounds and possible sound combinations in English (phonology). We study the processes of word formation and word classification in English (morphology). We also study word meaning (lexical semantics) using a variety of approaches.

Course Focus:

This is a fact-based course. The aim of the course is to teach a body of information and a mode of inquiry. Students will need to use their problem-solving skills and the course will also involve building skills in using and applying the techniques learned, based upon examples. Students have 3 resources to rely on: the instructor, the textbook, and their own understanding and consideration of the content and the text.

Course Objectives:

Upon completion of this course, students will have:

- a knowledge of the English sound system, including sounds that are used in speech production and their patterning in use
- an understanding of the rules of English word formation and grammatical modification
- a knowledge of different approaches to understanding lexical meaning
- the ability to represent much of this knowledge diagrammatically
- an appreciation of the nuances of meaning in human language and an acquaintance with the conceptual system underlying meaning.

Course Evaluation:

There will be 3 tests of equal weight (31%) and a class participation mark of 7%. The third test will be scheduled during the December examination period. A variety of in-class, homework and test questions will be given, including definitions, fill in the blanks, problem solving, short answer questions and matching.

Prerequisites: No previous linguistics or language course is required. Students are strongly encouraged to take both English 330 and English 331.

Required Text: L.J. Brinton and D.M. Brinton, *The Linguistic Structure of Modern English* (2010).

Policies:

UBC provides resources to support student learning and to maintain healthy lifestyles but recognizes that sometimes crises arise and so there are additional resources to access including those for survivors of sexual violence. UBC values respect for the person and ideas of all members of the academic community. Harassment and discrimination are not tolerated nor is suppression of academic freedom. UBC provides appropriate accommodation for students with disabilities and for religious observances. UBC values academic honesty and students are expected to acknowledge the ideas generated by others and to uphold the highest academic standards in all of their actions.

Details of the policies and how to access support are available on [the UBC Senate website \(https://senate.ubc.ca/policies-resources-support-student-success\)](https://senate.ubc.ca/policies-resources-support-student-success).

Students must contact me via email as soon as you are aware you may need an in-term concession. I will adjudicate the request. Please include a Student Self-Declaration form, found on the Arts Advising website (<https://students.arts.ubc.ca/advising/academic-performance/help-academic-concession/>). If you require a second concession, you must make your request to your Faculty Advising Office.

Tentative Schedule:

Week 1: Sept. 4-6

Introduction; linguistic sign, human and animal communication, linguistic creativity

(Reading: ch. 1, pp. 1-15)

Week 2: Sept. 9- 13

(Introduction cont.); Phonology – introduction, speech sounds, vocal tract, introduce IPA; begin consonants

(Reading: ch. 2, pp. 17-30)

Week 3: Sept. 16- 20

Phonology – consonants cont., place and manner of articulation, diacritics;

Phonology – vowels

Tuesday, Sept. 17: Last day for change in registration and for withdrawal from most Winter Session Term 1 courses without withdrawal standing of W recorded on a student's academic record.

(Reading: ch. 2, pp. 30-49)

Week 4: Sept. 23- 27

Phonology – vowels, Canadian raising, vowel length, syllabic function;

Phonology – phonemes, allophones, phonemic rules, phonological processes

(Reading: ch. 2-3, pp. 50-64)

Week 5: Sept. 30- OCT. 4

Phonology – phonotactics, suprasegmental features;

Phonology – suprasegmental features cont.

(Reading: ch. 3, pp. 64-78)

Week 6: Oct. 7-11

Syllable structure, review

Oct. 11: **Test #1**

(Reading: ch. 3, pp. 75-78)

Friday, Oct. 11: Last day for withdrawal using the [Student Service Centre](#) from most Winter Session Term 1 courses with withdrawal standing of W recorded on a student's academic record.

Week 7: Oct. 14- 18

NOTE: MONDAY OCTOBER 14: THANKSGIVING DAY. UNIVERSITY CLOSED.

Morphology – Introduction; Morphemes, morphs, morphemic analysis;

Morphology – processes of word formation: derivation

(Reading: ch. 4, pp. 79-112)

Week 8: Oct. 21-25

Morphology – processes of word formation

(Reading: ch. 4, pp. 94-112)

Week 9: Oct. 28-Nov. 1

Morphology – grammatical categories – number, gender, person, case, degree;

Grammatical categories – definiteness, deixis, tense and aspect; mood and voice, (building a model of a noun).

(Reading: ch. 5, pp. 113-132)

Week 10: Nov. 4-8

Nov. 4: **Test #2**

Grammatical categories *cont.*; Word classes, Lexical vs. function words

(Reading: ch. 5, pp. 132-142 [and ch. 6, pp. 143-150])

Week 11: Nov. 11- 15

NOTE: MONDAY, 11 NOVEMBER 2019, REMEMBRANCE DAY. UNIVERSITY CLOSED.

Semantics – introduction, basic semantic relationships, structural semantics;

Semantics – semantic features, modal auxiliaries

(Reading: ch. 6, pp. 151-172)

Week 12: Nov. 18- 22

Semantics – prototypes, semantic anomaly – selectional restrictions;

Semantics – semantic anomaly – figurative language

(Reading: ch. 6, pp. 172-179)

Week 13: Nov. 25-29

Semantics – metaphor

Wrap-up; review.

NOV 29 LAST DAY OF CLASSES.

(Reading: ch. 6, pp. 179-183)

Dec. Exam Period: Test #3 (Term 1 examinations begin December 3, (December 3 to 18 inclusive). Saturdays are included in the exam schedule.)