Fall 9-1-2000

ENLI 465.01: Structure of Modern English for Teachers

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Ling/Enli 465:01 Structure of Modern English for Teachers
Fall 2000
UH 210, MWF 1-2

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Reserve Room Readings: (chapters from)

Films: American Tongues
Playing the Language Game

Requirements and Grading System
Students are required to complete all in-class assignments (5%), all homework assignments (20%), and three exams (3 x 25%). In addition, graduate students must complete a small research project and provide a short presentation of that research to the class.

Description
This class provides an overview of the history and structure of Modern English. Students will receive a brief introduction to the historical development of English by studying some of the processes responsible for significant changes in its structure. They will also examine specific grammar points of Standard American English and contrast the grammar of SAE to other dialects of English.

Objectives
Upon completion of this course, students will:
1. be familiar with certain diachronic aspects of English, including the main features of Old and Middle English, some of the processes responsible for the changes from Old to Middle to Modern English as well as changes resulting from the influences of other Indo-European languages;
2. have assessed the role of a standard dialect of American English and its similarities and differences with respect to regional, ethnic, and social varieties of American English;
3. better understand the structure of Modern English, specifically the grammar points which appear in the course outline; and,
4. be aware of their academic strengths and weaknesses especially with respect to their abilities to research, write, and orally express their ideas.

Course Outline

Week 1
Introductions
Some Ways of Thinking about Grammar
Why study English grammar?: Barry, Chapter 1
How do we study English grammar?: Barry, Chapter 2
Word construction, pronunciation, and spelling: Barry, Chapter 14
Written Assignment #1: The Role of the English Teacher

Week 2
Language Variation
The reality of dialects: Wolfram & S-E, Chapter 1
Why do we have dialects?: Wolfram & S-E, Chapter 2
Levels of dialect: Wolfram & S-E, Chapter 3
Written Assignment #2: Outline Wolfram & S-E, Chapter 4

Week 3
Language Variation
Dialects in the U.S. past, present, and future: Wolfram & S-E, Chapter 4
Lecture: Preparing to read Barber
Film: American Tongues
Written Assignment #3: Three-page reaction paper to American Tongues

Week 4
The Source of English
What is Language?: Barber, Chapter 1
The flux of Language: Barber, Chapter 2
The Indo-European languages: Barber, Chapter 3
The Germanic languages: Barber, Chapter 4
Written Assignment #4: Word etymologies

**Week 5**  
*Review and exam #1*

**Week 6**  
*Developmental Stages of English*  
Old English: Barber, Chapter 5  
Norsemen and Normans: Barber, Chapter 6  
Written Assignment #5: Small Research Projects on Historical Development in English  
EXAM #1 DUE AT WEEK’S END

**Week 7**  
*Developmental Stages of English* (continued)  
Middle English: Barber, Chapter 7  
Early Modern English: Barber, Chapter 8  
Research Presentations

**Week 8**  
*Developmental Stages of English* (continued)  
Old and Middle English: sound recordings and texts  
Written Assignment #6: Exercises

**Week 9**  
*Review and exam #2*

**During weeks 10-15, students will also read relevant sections from Greenbaum t.b.a in class.**

**Week 10**  
*The Structure of Modern English*  
Nouns and Noun Phrases: Barry Chapter 3  
Written Assignment # 7: Exercises  
EXAM #2 DUE AT WEEK’S END

**Week 11**  
*The Structure of Modern English*  
Verbs and verb phrases: Barry, Chapter 4  
Voice: Barry, Chapter 9  
Written Assignment #8: Exercises

**Week 12**  
*The Structure of Modern English*  
Pronouns: Barry, Chapter 5

**Week 13**  
*The Structure of Modern English*  
Adjectives and adverbs: Barry, Chapter 6  
Prepositions and particles: Barry, Chapter 7  
Written Assignment #9: Exercises

**Week 14**  
*The Structure of Modern English* (time permitting)  
Language users at work: Barry, Chapter 8  
Discourse function: Barry, Chapter 10

**Week 15**  
*Review and Exam #3*  
Film: Playing the Language Game  
Written Assignment #10: The role of the English teacher revisited

**Week 16**  
Exam #3 due on the day of the final: Thursday December 21 from 1-3.