

English 221: The English Language

Contact Information:
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Office Hours: Tuesdays 1:30-3:00 pm and by appointment

Course Specific Purpose: The primary purpose of this course is to lead students in the analysis of language in general and the English language in particular.

Course Purposes:

- To develop respect for and understanding of human language;
- To explore the modern linguistic concepts of the English language;
- To develop respect for diachronic and synchronic language variation;
- To understand the role of social forces on language variation.

Course Specific Learning Outcomes: As part of their work, students will:

- Display an understanding of human language;
- Recognize the difference between prescriptive and descriptive approaches to language;
- Describe the nature of language variation;
- Use linguistic concepts to solve language problems;
- Analyze natural language, predominantly English.

Overarching Goals for English majors: Upon completing a B.A. in English, a student should be able to:

- Interpret texts within diverse literary, cultural, and historical contexts.
 - o Identify genre conventions and analyze their effects
 - o Identify and analyze effects of complexity or ambiguity
 - o Locate texts in social / economic / political / literary history
 - o Connect texts to other literary or cultural texts
- Demonstrate a general knowledge of the social and structural aspects of the English language.
- Demonstrate a range of contextually effective writing strategies.

Not all English courses will address all three goals; some will focus particularly on one goal. However, the English major curriculum as a whole will provide multiple opportunities to address all of the goals.

Text: *An Introduction to Language*. Kirk Hazen. Wiley-Blackwell. 2015:
<http://www.wiley.com/WileyCDA/WileyTitle/productCd-0470658967.html> or
<http://www.amazon.com/Introduction-Language-Linguistics-World/dp/0470658967/>

Other help: [Quizlet for An Introduction to Language](#)

Advice on class planning: To be prepared for class, I expect you read the assigned pages in the book before class. By "read", I mean you should be able to explain what material you understand and what material you do not understand. When you come to class, you should then be proactive and ask questions about the material you do not understand. If you are not able to explain what material you do know and do not know before the class starts, then you are not prepared for class.

Attendance: Because this course depends on your **active** preparation for every class and your **active** involvement during every class period, regular (and on-time) attendance is critical to your success in this class. It is the easiest thing you can do to help yourself get a passing grade.

Absences: Without attending class, you cannot perform your role as a student. Personal situations and required university events may arise that, on rare occasions, make it impossible for you to be in class. Remember, however, that is why a few absences are allowed; please reserve absences for such events.

- Each student is allowed up to three (3) absences from this class.

- Each additional absence will lower your final grade by a letter grade.

In addition, one other situation will count towards your absence total. If you are late to class, it will count as half an absence. This situation is a matter of respect for your peers and the instructor. I will not inform you of when you have been marked down for half an absence; you should be able to figure it out on your own.

If you must miss class, *you* are responsible for obtaining any handouts or assignments for the class. Make sure you talk with me in advance if you are worried about meeting a deadline or missing a class. Please note: If you know you must miss more than four classes during the semester, I strongly advise you to take the class during another semester.

Absences, tests, and quizzes: If you plan to miss a test, you **must** notify me **before** the test begins about the reason for your absence. If it is a valid excuse, you may make up the test within the next few days. You may make up one (and only one) test during any given semester.

If you miss a quiz, you have missed the quiz. There are no make-up quizzes. You can take quizzes early.

Advice:

If you feel lost or even the slightest bit confused, contact me or the teaching assistant. This is not a class you want to get behind in. Email us or come by during office hours. If you cannot make office hours, we can set up a time to talk. The quicker you get your questions straightened out, the better off you will be. Every semester we offer many office hours, but students rarely come by to talk about the class. Please help us help you: Come to office hours.

TA Office Hours: TBA

Homework:

Homework will normally consist of short exercises from the end of each chapter. The homework is designed to help you engage the material proactively. If you complete the homework, you should receive a 100% for a grade. In other words, wrong answers do not count against you, but unanswered exercises do count against your grade. We will have at least one homework assignment per week. Most homework will be take-home, but some will be in-class. It's a mixed up, muddled up, shook up world.

Quizzes:

Quizzes might contain data to analyze, terms to define, fill-in-the-blank questions, paragraph essays, and multiple choice questions. We will have at least 12 quizzes this semester. The quizzes are designed to determine your language-analysis skills and knowledge of the English language. Wrong answers do count against your grade, but many questions allow for partial credit.

Together, the homework and quizzes constitute 50% of your grade and should be considered the foundation on which your skills, knowledge, and grade is built.

Exams:

There will be a mid-term and final exam. The exams are designed to allow opportunities for you to demonstrate your language analysis skills and explain the linguistic knowledge you have learned. Each exam will contain terms to define, data problems to solve, hierarchical relationships to analyze, and paragraph essays. Exams do not contain multiple choice questions; you must know the material thoroughly and be well-practiced with your language-analysis skills in order to perform well on these exams. Please note that it should take me two weeks to grade and return the exams.

There will be a review document and review day for each exam. You must prepare for these exams from the start of the semester and every week following. It is impossible to cram for these exams.

Grades:

Type	Percent of final grade	Date
Homework	25%	Throughout the semester
Quizzes	25%	Throughout the semester
Midterm Exam	25%	February 21
Final Exam	25%	April 30, 8:00 AM, Clark 317

In this class I assign pluses and minuses. The official percentages:

A+	100-97
A	96-93
A-	92-90
B+	89-87
B	86-83
B-	82-80
C+	79-77
C	76-73
C-	72-70
D+	69-67
D	66-63
D-	62-60
F	59 and below

I only round up once: If you get a 69.5, it is a C-; if you get a 69.49, it is a D+. It's a hard knock life.

Drop date: Tuesday, October 23rd.

Inclusivity statement:

The West Virginia University community is committed to creating and fostering a positive learning and working environment based on open communication, mutual respect, and inclusion.

If you are a person with a disability and anticipate needing any type of accommodation in order to participate in your classes, please advise your instructors and make appropriate arrangements with the. (<https://accessibilityservices.wvu.edu/>)

More information is available at the [Division of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion](https://diversity.wvu.edu/) (<https://diversity.wvu.edu/>) as well. [adopted 2-11-2013]

Intellectual Property:

All course materials, including lectures, class notes, quizzes, exams, handouts, presentations, and other materials provided to students for this course are protected intellectual property. As such, the unauthorized purchase or sale of these materials may result in disciplinary sanctions under the Campus Student Code.

Academic Integrity Statement:

The integrity of the classes offered by any academic institution solidifies the foundation of its mission and cannot be sacrificed to expediency, ignorance, or blatant fraud. Therefore, instructors will enforce rigorous standards of academic integrity in all aspects and assignments of their courses. For the detailed policy of West Virginia University regarding the definitions of acts considered to fall under academic dishonesty and possible ensuing sanctions, please see the West Virginia University Academic (<http://catalog.wvu.edu/undergraduate/coursecredittermsclassification>). Should you have any questions about possibly improper research citations or references, or any other activity that may be interpreted as an attempt at academic dishonesty, please see your instructor before the assignment is due to discuss the matter.

Academic Standards Policy, including Academic Dishonesty:

The WVU Catalog contains the full Academic Standards Policy:
<http://catalog.wvu.edu/undergraduate/coursecredittermsclassification/>

Adverse Weather Statement:

In the event of inclement or threatening weather, everyone should use his or her best judgment regarding travel to and from campus. Safety should be the main concern. If you cannot get to class because of adverse weather conditions, you should contact your instructor as soon as possible. Similarly, if your instructor(s) are unable to reach the class location, they will notify you of any cancellation or change as soon as possible, using agreed upon methods to prevent students from embarking on any unnecessary travel. If you cannot get to class because of weather conditions, instructors will make allowances relative to required attendance policies, as well as any scheduled tests, quizzes, or other assessments.

Non-Disclosure of Health Information:

Based on both the Americans with Disabilities Amendment Act of 2008 and the Genetic Information Non-Discriminatory Act of 2008, it is unlawful to disclose a student's medical issue(s) or genetic information without the express written permission of the student. For example, if a student is absent because of hospitalization, that information must not be disclosed unless the student has authorized, in writing, the release of such information.

Reporting of Witnessed Sexual Misconduct by Students:

Based on the revised Title IX Compliance policy, if an instructor ever witnesses student-on-student sexual misconduct (see the BOG's Policies and Procedures on Sexual Harassment which covers what constitutes sexual misconduct at <http://diversity.wvu.edu/ea/complaint-and-investigation-process>) that instructor is obligated to report this to the Social Justice Office. The Title IX Compliance policy can be found at <http://titleix.wvu.edu/>, and this policy is a complementary document to the BOG's Policies and Procedures Regarding Sexual Harassment.

Sexual Misconduct Statement:

West Virginia University does not tolerate sexual misconduct, including harassment, stalking, sexual assault, sexual exploitation, or relationship violence [BOG Rule 1.6]. It is important for you to know that there are resources available if you or someone you know needs assistance. You may speak to a member of university administration, faculty, or staff; keep in mind that they have an obligation to report the incident to the [Title IX Coordinator](https://titleix.wvu.edu/staff). (<https://titleix.wvu.edu/staff>). If you want to speak to someone who is permitted to keep your disclosure confidential, please seek assistance from the [Carruth Center](#), 304-293-9355 or 304-293-4431 (24-hour hotline), and locally within the community at the [Rape and Domestic Violence Information Center](#) (RDVIC), 304- 292-5100 or 304-292-4431 (24-hour hotline).

Sale of Course Material Statement:

All course materials, including lectures, class notes, quizzes, exams, handouts, presentations, and other course materials provided to students for their courses are protected intellectual property. As such, the unauthorized purchase or sale of these materials may result in disciplinary sanctions under the [Student Conduct Code](#). (<https://studentconduct.wvu.edu/policies-and-procedures>).

Student Evaluation of Instruction Statement:

Effective teaching is a primary mission of West Virginia University. Student evaluation of instruction provides the university and the instructor with feedback about your experiences in the course for review and course improvement. Your participation in the evaluation of course instruction is both strongly encouraged and highly valued. Results are strictly confidential, anonymous, and not available to the instructor until after final grades are released by Admissions and Records. Information about how you can complete this evaluation will be provided by your instructor.

Class	Week	Day	Date	Topic	Reading
1	1st week	Thursday	Jan 8	Introduction to language study	Chapter 1
2	1st week	Tuesday	Jan 10	Introduction to language study	Chapter 1
3	2nd week	Thursday	Jan 15	English and education	Chapter 10
4	2nd week	Tuesday	Jan 17	English and education	Chapter 10
5	3rd week	Thursday	Jan 22	Variation in English	Chapter 11
6	3rd week	Tuesday	Jan 24	Variation in English	Chapter 11
7	4th week	Thursday	Jan 29	Flocks of phrases	Chapter 9
8	4th week	Tuesday	Jan 31	Flocks of phrases	Chapter 9
9	5th week	Thursday	Feb 5	Verbs, idioms, and slang	Chapter 5
10	5th week	Tuesday	Feb 7	Verbs, idioms, and slang	Chapter 5
11	6th week	Thursday	Feb 12	One-part words	Chapter 4
12	6th week	Tuesday	Feb 14	One-part words	Chapter 4
13	7th week	Thursday	Feb 19	Review	Study Guide
14	7th week	Tuesday	Feb 21	Midterm	Study Guide
15	8th week	Thursday	Feb 26	Multipart words	Chapter 6
16	8th week	Tuesday	Feb 28	Multipart words	Chapter 6
17	Week 9	Thursday	Mar 5	Multipart words	Chapter 6
18	Week 9	Tuesday	Mar 7	Basic phrases	Chapter 7
		T/Th	Mar 12, 14	No Class	
19	Week 10	Tuesday	Mar 19	Basic phrases	Chapter 7
20	Week 10	Thursday	Mar 21	Building bigger phrases	Chapter 8
21	Week 11	Tuesday	Mar 26	Building bigger phrases	Chapter 8
22	Week 11	Thursday	Mar 28	Building bigger phrases	Chapter 8
23	Week 12	Tuesday	Apr 2	Sounds	Chapter 2
24	Week 12	Thursday	Apr 4	Sounds	Chapter 2
25	Week 13	Tuesday	Apr 9	Patterns of sounds	Chapter 3
26	Week 13	Thursday	Apr 11	Patterns of sounds	Chapter 3
27	Week 14	Tuesday	Apr 16	Patterns of sounds	Chapter 3
28	Week 14	Thursday	Apr 18	Patterns of sounds	Chapter 3
29	Week 15	Tuesday	Apr 23	Review; ESA; SEIs	Study Guide
30	Week 15	Thursday	Apr 25	Final Exam Review	Study Guide
31	Final Exam	Tuesday	Apr 30	8:00 AM: Final Exam: 317 Clark	