

322 Syllabus, Fall 1999

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(also starring: T.A. Robert Kennedy -- Email: kennedyr@u.arizona.edu)

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Office Hours: Monday, 2-3 pm, or by appointment

Where: SSCI 222

When: MWF 12-12:50

Web Page (you're here!): <http://w3.arizona.edu/~ling/hh/322>

Required books: "Words and Rules" by Steven Pinker

A good English dictionary (at least 60,000 entries)

*Note: much of the material covered in the course will not be in the book: keep your handouts, and take good notes: the material **will** be on the assignments and the tests!*



[Links to some online dictionaries and now: International Phonetic Alphabet sound/symbol charts!](#)

["Measuring your vocabulary" test answers](#)

Click on the dates below to download a .pdf file of the handout from that date

Evaluation/Course Requirements:

15%: Word Diary¹

30%: 6 assignments including at least one Official Question²

10%: Class participation³

15%: Short (3-5 page) paper

15%: Midterm

15%: Final

¹ Each week, you will keep your eyes and ears open for new Words, in the readings, on the radio or TV, in other courses, wherever. When you hear a Word you don't know, or don't know very well, or find interesting for some reason, write it down in your Word Diary and look it up. If you can't find it in your dictionary, go to the library, or go online to look it up. Write down its definition, and, just like in grade school, make up a sentence using the word. (If it's interesting, you might also write down where you saw or heard it). You need to find two new words each week (although more is also fine, less is not). On Mondays, you will give your Word Diaries to Bob, who will check off your two words and give you a percentage point. We'll do that for the 15 weeks of term, making 15 percentage points in all.

² Each student will be responsible for at least one official Question. When you hand in your Word Diary to Bob each week, two or three of you will be required to also hand in a Question each, in some way related to the course material. Bob will answer these Questions (if there is a reasonable answer) in the Friday sessional. Banned from Official Questionhood: "What is the etymology of X?"

³ That is: attendance! You're docked 1 per cent for every class you miss, with 3 free: if you miss 3 classes, you get the full 10%; if you miss 13, you get 0%.

Schedule of Work Deadlines:

Week 1/2 January

Wed 12

Fri 14

Week 1 Reading: Pinker, Chapter 1.

Wed 19

st Word Diary entry due

1st Official Questions due

Fri 21 Assignment #1 handed out

Week 2 *Reading:* Pinker, Chapter 2, pp 21-32

[Mon 24](#) 2nd Word Diary entry due

2nd Official Questions due

[Wed 26](#)

Fri 28

Week 3 *Reading:* Pinker, Chapter 2, pp. 33-46

[Mon 31](#) Assignment #1 due

3rd Word Diary entry due

3rd Official Questions due

February

[Wed 2](#)

Fri 4 [Assignment #2](#) handed out

Week 4 *Reading:* Pinker, Chapter 3

[Mon 7](#) 4th Word Diary entry due

4th Official Questions due

[Wed 9](#)

Fri 11

Week 5 *Reading:* Pinker, Chapter 4

[Mon 14](#) Assignment #2 due

5th Word Diary entry due

5th Official Questions due

[Wed 16](#)

Fri 18 [Assignment # 3](#) handed out

Week 6 *Reading: Pinker, Chapter 6*

[Mon 21](#) 6th Word Diary entry due

6th Official Questions due

[Wed 23](#)

Fri 25

Week 7 *Reading: Pinker Chapter 7 (Dr. Harley away)*

Mon 28 Assignment #3 due

7th Word Diary entry due

7th Official Questions due

March

Wed 1 Library trip

Fri 3 Review

Week 8 *Reading: Pinker Chapter 7 (Dr. Harley still away)*

Mon 6 8th Word Diary entry due

Library

Wed 8 Library

Fri 10 Midterm

11-19 Spring Break

Week 9

[Mon 20](#) 9th Word Diary entry due

8th Official Questions due

[Wed. 22](#)

Fri. 24: [Assignment #4](#) handed out,

paper topics handed out

Week 10

[Mon 27](#) 10th Word Diary entry due

9th Official Questions due

[Wed 29](#)

[Fri 31:](#)

Week 11 April

Mon 3 Assignment #4 due

11th Word Diary entry due

10th Official Questions due

[Wed. 5](#)

Fri. 7: [Assignment #5](#) handed out

State paper topic choice

Week 12

[Mon 10](#) 12th Word Diary entry due

11th Official Questions due

[Wed. 12](#)

Fri. 14: [Assignment #6](#) handed out

Week 13

[Mon. 17](#) Assignment #5 due

13th Word Diary entry due

12th Official Questions due

[Wed 19](#)

Fri 21 If you choose, hand in a draft of your paper

Week 14

[Mon 24](#) 14th Word Diary entry due

13th Official Questions due

[Wed 26](#) List of words, their meanings, and their etymologies for the final exam.

Assignment #6 due

Fri 28: Review

Week 15 May

Mon 1 15th Word Diary entry due

Wed 3 Final

Fri 5: Final version of paper due

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Approximate Schedule of Topics:

- Explanation of evaluation, Word Diary, Official Questions
- The linguist's moral: no language/dialect better than another
- Overview of words: the arbitrariness of the sign.

What's a word?

- Infinite generative capacity: words vs. rules. Syntax.
- What is a word? Inflection as a test of wordhood.
- Other tests/conceptions of wordhood, morphemes, roots vs. affixes, phonological words, compound words, etc.etc.

Assignment #1: identify phonological words, morphemes, semantic units)

English Phonology

- Phonological words: basics of English phonology, phonotactics.
- Phonological information in dictionaries
- word stress

Morphophonology

- English past tense/plurality allomorphy
- homophony, syncretism, suppletion
- Assignment #2 (IPA, morphophonological problem set)

Morphology

- Language change through rule loss: Anglo-saxon plurals
- history of the verb *to be*
- the Great Vowel Shift

The Sound Pattern of English

- morphology: inflection/derivation
- SPE: the nasty guts of English derivational morphology:
the cycle, class I and II affixes, stress-change, etc.

Where do new words come from?

Reading: Pinker Chapter 6

- Language change through borrowing: French, Latin, Greek, etc.
- coinages, compounding, derivation, clipping
- category changes

Acquisition of words

visit the library

Reading: Pinker, chapter 7

guest lecture: acquisition of words

Borrowing: Romance languages

- Latin, Greek

- French

Lexicography

Translation, idioms