

**Syllabus, “The structure and meaning of words.”**  
**Linguistics/English 322,**  
**Online, Spring 2016**

Course website at <http://d2l.arizona.edu>

**Course description:**

An in-depth introduction to the sounds, structures, meanings and history of English words. At the end of the course, you will know more about the answers to questions like this: Why are English alphabet letters pronounced they way they are? How do we use our mouths to make the sounds of English? What makes certain poems sound rhythmic and metrical? What are the rules that govern the construction of English words from suffixes and prefixes? How do children begin to identify and acquire words from the speech they hear? How did English come to be the language spoken in England? Why is English full of borrowed words? Why is English spelling so inconsistent?

**Instructor information**

Professor Heidi Harley

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**Teaching assistants:**

Megan Figueroa, [megan@email.arizona.edu](mailto:megan@email.arizona.edu)

Office:

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Shiloh Drake, [sndrake@email.arizona.edu](mailto:sndrake@email.arizona.edu)

Office:

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**Course objectives and expected learning outcomes**

*You will learn to:*

- identify the parts of the mouth used to produce different speech sounds
- transcribe English phonetically using the International Phonetic Alphabet
- segment words into syllables and feet, and identify stressed syllables
- analyze words into their component parts (morphemes)
- identify the structural composition of complex words
- use the Oxford English Dictionary to find the history of a word or affix

use Google ngrams to learn about the use of a word or affix over time

*You will learn about*

the problem of defining precisely what a word is  
the different types of English affixes  
the differences between English orthography and pronunciation  
what babies do when they are learning English words  
the different types of meanings that words can have  
how affixation affects the meanings of words  
how English has changed since it first arrived in England 1500 years ago  
how English orthography got the way it is.

**Topics:**

*Introduction*

What is a word?  
Parts of speech  
The Oxford English Dictionary

*Phonology*

The International Phonetic Alphabet  
Syllables, feet and phonotactics

*Morphology*

New words  
Affixation  
Irregularity

*Semantics*

Lexical semantics

*Acquisition*

Lexical acquisition

*History*

History of English  
English prescriptivism

**Methodology:**

*Content delivery:*

Podcasts, readings, practice items

*Evaluation*

Quizzes  
Course project

**Required texts:**

*English words: A linguistic introduction*, by Heidi Harley. 2006. Blackwell.  
The Oxford English Dictionary (available on the library website)  
Other materials on the website.

## **Special materials:**

You will need to be able to use the IPA on your computer, either through a cut-and-paste website like <http://ipa.typeit.org> or by installing IPA-compatible fonts/keymaps.

## **Grading/Course schema**

Your grade is determined by simple accumulation of points.  
1000 total points are possible.

900-1000 points: A  
800-900 points: B  
700-800 points: C  
600-700 points: D  
<600 points: E

## **Activities for earning points**

|            |  |
|------------|--|
| 200 points | 20 word diary entries, 10 points each<br>(2 per week for 10 weeks)   |
| 360 points | 30 short quizzes/assignments, 12 points each<br>(Approximately 2 per week)   |
| 440 points | Incremental course project, made up of 4 sections<br>worth 110 points each, completed over the course of the<br>semester |

## **Submitting work**

Work will be submitted on the D2L site, either through D2L Quizzes or D2L Dropboxes. Quizzes and dropboxes will close for submissions at midnight on the due date.

## **Format requirements**

Universal formatting requirements for Dropbox submissions: Work must be submitted in .pdf format. Font for text must be 12 points, doublespaced. Page margins must be minimally 1 inch, maximally 1.25 inches. Exceptions or changes to these requirements may be specified in the case of individual assignments or project sections.

## **Late work**

Late work will not be accepted, except in cases of a documented medical or personal crisis.

## **Special Needs and Accommodations Statement**

Students who need special accommodation or services should contact the Disability Resources Center, 1224 East Lowell Street, Tucson, AZ 85721, (520) 621-3268, FAX (520) 621-9423, email: [uadrc@email.arizona.edu](mailto:uadrc@email.arizona.edu), <http://drc.arizona.edu/> . You must register and request that the Center or DRC send me official notification of your accommodations needs as soon as possible. Please plan to meet with me by appointment or during office hours to discuss accommodations and how my course requirements and activities may impact your ability to fully participate. The need for accommodations must be documented by the appropriate office.

## **Student Code of Academic Integrity**

Students are encouraged to share intellectual views and discuss freely the principles and applications of course materials. However, graded work/exercises must be the product of independent effort unless otherwise instructed. Students are expected to adhere to the UA Code of Academic Integrity as described in the UA General Catalog. See: <http://deanofstudents.arizona.edu/codeofacademicintegrity/>.

Academic integrity violations will minimally result in loss of all credit for the work involved. In addition, participation in an Academic Integrity Workshop and/or Plagiarism Awareness Workshop will be required; note that there are fees associated with each workshop.

The formal reporting procedures required by the Dean of Students will be followed in all academic integrity cases, including an in-person meeting to discuss the violation and a filed report. More serious violations may result in a failing grade, a permanent notation on the transcript, suspension, or expulsion.

The Academic Integrity guidelines can be found on the Dean of Students' website here: <https://deanofstudents.arizona.edu/academic-integrity/students/academic-integrity> .

## **Subject to Change Statement**

Information contained in this course syllabus, other than the grade and absence policy, may be subject to change with advance notice, as deemed appropriate by the instructor.