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LING 465.01: Structure of Modern English for Teachers

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The University Of Montana

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Ling/Enli 465:01 Structure of Modern English for Teachers

Fall 2000

UH 210, MWF 1-2

Deirdre Black

Office: Ling 108

Hrs: 2-3 MWF & by appt.

Tel: w 5164; h 728-0713

Required Texts: Barber, Charles. *The English Language: A Historical Introduction*.

Cambridge University Press.

Greenbaum, Sidney. *The Oxford English Grammar*. Oxford University Press.

Reserve Room Readings: (chapters from)

Barry, Anita K. *English Grammar: Language as Human Behavior*. Prentice Hall.

Wolfram & Schilling-Estes. *American English*. Blackwell Publishers.

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.