

LING 8b Structure of the English Language

Spring 2005

Meeting Time: Tue and Fri 9:10-10:30 am (Block G)
Location: Pearlman Hall 203

Instructor: Barbara Citko, Program in Linguistics and Cognitive Science
Instructor's Office: Volen 214
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Teaching Assistant: Roser Sauri
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Office Hours: Mon and Wed 5:30-6:30pm

Overview:

This course is a non-theoretical introduction to the basic concepts of morphological and syntactic analysis of English. Upon (successful, I hope) completion of this course, you will gain an understanding of the internal structure and historical origins of English words, and of the intricacies of English phrases and sentences. You will also gain a foundation in grammatical reasoning, and learn how to formulate and test hypotheses about linguistic structure.

Textbook:

Wardhaugh, Ronald. 2003. *Understanding English Grammar: a Linguistic Approach*. Blackwell Publishers.

Other Materials:

Brinton, Laurel J. 2000. *The Structure of Modern English*. John Benjamins Publishing Company.
Lobeck, Anne. 2000. *Discovering Grammar: an Introduction to English Sentence Structure*. Oxford University Press.
Sloat, Clarence, and Sharon Taylor. 1985. *The Structure of English Words: Third Edition*. Kendall/Hunt Publishing Company.
Stockwell, Robert, and Donka Minkova. 2001. *English Words: History and Structure*. Cambridge University Press.

Course Requirements:

Work for this class will include readings, weekly written (short) homework assignments, in-class quizzes, and a final cumulative exam. The quizzes and the final exam will be similar in form to the homework assignments. However, they will typically require you to extend your knowledge in a creative way (for example, to constructions that you haven't encountered before). You are allowed to work together on the weekly assignments, since you learn more that way. However, all assignments must be written up separately, in your own words and with your own examples, so that I can tell whether or not you have understood the assignment.

Grading Policy:

participation and attendance	10%
homework assignments	30%
in-class quizzes	30%
cumulative final exam	<u>30%</u>
total	100%

Final grades will be given approximately according the following scale:

100-94%	A	76-74%	C
93-90%	A-	73-70%	C-
89-87%	B+	69-67%	D+
86-84%	B	66-64%	D
83-80%	B-	63-60%	D-
79-77%	C+	59-0%	F

No Late Homework Assignments will be accepted and No Make-Up Quizzes will be given (except in cases of TRUE emergencies when PRIOR arrangements are made with me)

Course Outline (subject to change)

Assignments will be assigned on Friday, and due the following Tuesday. Quiz dates are in boldface.

<i>Week</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Topics</i>	<i>Readings</i>
I	Fri 1/14	Introductions, Course Overview, Diagnostic Quiz	
II	Tue 1/18	Prescriptive versus Descriptive Grammar Classical Roots (Sets 1 and 2)	Wardhaugh: Chapter 1
	Fri 1/21	Dialects versus 'the Standard'	
III	Tue 1/25	Words and Word Classes Classical Roots (Sets 3 and 4)	Wardhaugh: Chapter 2
	Fri 1/28	Words and Word Classes	
IV	Tue 2/1	Internal Structure of Words Classical Roots (Sets 5 and 6)	Wardhaugh Chapter 11
	Fri 2/4	Derivation versus Inflection	
V	Tue 2/8	Word Formation Processes Classical Roots (Sets 7 and 8)	Stockwell and Minkova, Chapter 1
	Fri 2/11	Word Formation Processes	
VI	Tue 2/15	Quiz 1	
	Fri 2/18	A Historical Perspective on English Vocabulary Classical Roots (Sets 9 and 10)	Stockwell and Minkova, Chapter 2-3.
VII	Tue 2/22	No class: midterm recess	
	Fri 2/25	No class: midterm recess	
VIII	Tue 3/1	A Historical Perspective on English Vocabulary Classical Roots (Sets 11 and 12)	
	Fri 3/4	Constituents and Phrases	Wardhaugh Chapter 3
IX	Tue 3/8	Constituents and Phrases	
	Fri 3/11	Simple Clauses	Wardhaugh Chapter 4
X	Tue 3/15	Quiz 2	
	Fri 3/18	Diagramming Simple Clauses	
XI	Tue 3/22	More on Noun Phrases Classical Roots (Sets 13 and 14)	
	Fri 3/25	No class	
XII	Tue 3/29	More on Verb Phrases Classical Roots (Sets 15 and 16)	Wardhaugh Chapter 7 (7.3-7.4)
	Fri 4/1	Finite versus Nonfinite clauses	
XIII	Tue 4/5	Subordination and Coordination Classical Roots (Sets 17 and 18)	Wardhaugh Chapter 5
	Fri 4/8	Relative Clauses	Wardhaugh Chapter 5 (5.4)
XIV	Tue 4/12	Clausal Variation	Wardhaugh Chapter 6

	Fri 4/15	Clausal Variation	
XV	Tue 4/19	Review of Root Sets	
	Fri 4/22	Review for the Final	
	Mon 5/9	FINAL EXAM (6:00 pm -9:00 pm)	

If you are a student with a documented disability on record at Brandeis University and wish to have a reasonable accommodation made for you in this class, please see me immediately.

You are expected to be honest in all of your academic work. The University policy on academic honesty is distributed annually as section 5 of the Rights and Responsibilities handbook. Instances of alleged dishonesty will be forwarded to the Office of Campus Life for possible referral to the Student Judicial System. Potential sanctions include failure in the course and suspension from the University. If you have any questions about my expectations, please ask.