

ENGLISH LANGUAGE IN AMERICA

Instructor: Natalie Operstein
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Office hours: M 4:30-5:50pm, E&T A626

Course Description

This course is a survey of general linguistics with particular emphasis placed on American English. We will discuss the major areas of the field including speech production (phonetics), sound patterns (phonology), word formation (morphology), sentence structure (syntax), and language change over time (historical linguistics). We may also discuss such other areas as language classification, language acquisition, semantics, and social aspects of language. The course will emphasize practical skills of linguistic analysis, with part of each class devoted to data analysis. The course grade will be calculated as follows:

Midterms (3):	60%
Written Assignment:	10%
Term Project Presentation:	10%
Term Paper:	20%

Textbook

O’Grady, William, et al. 2005. *Contemporary Linguistics: An Introduction*. 5th ed. New York: St. Martin’s Press.

Approximate Course Outline (timing to be adjusted as needed)

Week		Date	Topics	Readings	Due Dates		
1	M	08/8	Morphemes: The Smallest Units of Word Structure.	Chapter 4			
	W	08/10					
2	M	08/15	Allomorphs: Variable Morpheme Shapes.				
	W	08/17					
3	M	08/22	English Words of Classical Origin.				Midterm 1
	W	08/24					
4	M	08/29	Syntax: Structure of English Sentences.	Chapter 5			
	W	08/31					
5	M	09/5					
	W	09/7					
6	M	09/12					
	W	09/14					
7	M		Phonetics: The Sounds of English.	Chapter 2	Assignments Due.		
	W						
8	M		Phonology: Sound Interaction in Speech.	Chapter 3			
	W						
9	M		Language History & Change.	Chapter 8			
	W						
10	M		Elements of English Historical Phonology & Semantics.				
	W						Midterm 3
Finals Week			Presentations of Term Paper Projects.				Term Papers Due.