HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT
OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE
SEGL 453 – Online
Summer 2007

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Course Description
• History and evolution of the English language reflecting changes in phonetics, semantics, morphology, and syntax, as well as the assembly of dictionaries.

Course Goals
• Broaden students’ perspective of the English language in use and encourage independent thought on the nature of language in context as accentuated through developmental changes.

Required texts
• OPTIONAL accompanying workbook (for your reference & further work on topics from the text). The answer guide for the workbook is available online. ISBN: 0-155-07054-1. Buying it is optional.

Attendance/Participation
• In this course, participation equals attendance. Students are expected to login to Blackboard and participate in the course at least 5 days per week. I expect the same level of work from this course as I would a face to face course (~ 10 hours of participation/week PLUS reading, writing major papers, etc).
• Research has shown that active, involved students learn more and get better grades. While there is no “A for effort” policy in this course, the instructor reserves the right to improve borderline grades for regular, constructive and meaningful participation in all facets of the course (see Grading below).

Plagiarism
• The consequences of any form of academic dishonesty range from failure on the assignment to expulsion. Ignorance of the rules is not an acceptable excuse…
• While it is appropriate to ‘build’ on work you did in a previous course, final submitted work should be original and written specifically for this course (it is possible to plagiarize yourself).
• The “Safe Assignment” (which helps me check for plagiarism) will be used for all papers submitted, and may be employed at the instructor’s discretion for any other assignment (paper, quiz, test, etc.) as well.
Evaluation

- **Examinations (25%)**: There will be two exams: midterm and final. The Mid-term (10%) will be given on Monday of the 3rd week of class. The final will cumulative and will be available on the Friday of the 4th (& final) week of class (15%). You must take the exam on the day; the exam will be set to expire at midnight and no make-up exams will be given (*please plan ahead against technical difficulties*).

- **Major Papers (30%)**: First, students analyze the etymology (historical development) of a word or group of related words. Second, students will choose a historical topic and explore it well beyond the scope of the text. The etymology paper is due on the Monday of the third week of class (10%), and the other on the final Monday of class (20%). Details will be given in discussion and office chat. All papers will be posted to the class discussion board and all students will be expected to respond meaningfully to at least two other papers. Students will have the option to revise a paper after receiving their peer’s comments on it. All papers must be posted online by the date they are due. Students are advised to submit at least 48 hours in advance, however, in order to make use of the “Safe Assignment” plagiarism checking system which will be used for both papers. To make use the report, you will need to submit 48 hours in advance of the class deadline. Late papers MAY be accepted up to 2 days after the deadline at a 10% penalty.

- **Quizzes (10%)**: "Review" (AKA test prep) quizzes are given at the conclusion of each chapter and will be based on the material in the reading and in the PowerPoint/Lecture presentations. The availability period for each quiz is noted on the schedule. No make-up quizzes will be given after the availability window has closed (*please plan ahead against technical difficulties*).

- **Participation (35%)**: Discussion Groups (including chapter reading responses, responses to your peers’ papers, and other task oriented participation) will constitute 40% of your final score. 10% will be based on the quantity of participation (each class member is expected to post to Discussion &/or Chat at least 4 days per week). The remaining 25% will be based on the quality of the participation (how it reflects the slides, text & discussion of other class members). No late work will be accepted (*again, plan ahead*).

Assignment Deadlines

- All work must be turned by the assigned date and time. All deadlines will be 11:59PM of the date on the schedule. I highly recommend that you turn in papers early to avoid last minute issues (*technical or other*). Late papers may be accepted at the discretion of the professor with a 10% penalty. Late papers turned in late to the discussion board will lose the option to have revisions figured into the grade. A penalty may also be assessed in the ‘participation’ category. No late work will be accepted for Discussion, Tests, or Quizzes.

Grading

- A: 90%–100%
- B: 80%–89%
- C: 70%–79%
- D: 60%–69%
- F: below 60%

*Pluses (B+, etc): The instructor reserves the right to award plus scores or higher grades for scores within 2 points of the next grade for regular, constructive and meaningful participation in all facets of the course.*

Accommodations

- To request accommodation for a disability, please contact the Office of Disability Services (CLC 232, Phone: 503-5123) *and* contact me as soon as possible.

***This syllabus is subject to change - any changes will be posted on the website***