

English 331: The Structure of Modern English

Monday and Thursday 11:10-12:25; Hunter West 1137

Instructor: Kelsey Swift

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Office hours: Monday/Thursday 12:30-1:30, or by appointment

Course description:

Welcome to English 331! This course is an introduction to the systematic study of language, with a focus on Modern English and its various dialects. We will analyze the structural features of language from the perspectives of the core fields of linguistics - phonology, morphology, syntax, and semantics. We will also discuss topics in applied linguistics and sociolinguistics, including multilingualism, variation, and language ideology. By the end of the course, you will have a basic understanding of the field of linguistics and the ability to apply its concepts to the language phenomena around you.

Learning goals:

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

- Identify some phonological, morphological, syntactic, and semantic features of English
- Understand basic linguistic terminology
- Discuss the socio-cultural context of the English language and its speakers
- Explore real-world applications for linguistic knowledge
- Complete a research project on a relevant topic

Required Text:

Curzan, A. & Adams, M. (2009). *How English works: A linguistics introduction* (2nd ed.). New York: Pearson/Longman. ISBN: 0205605508.

Course requirements:

ATTENDANCE & PARTICIPATION: Attendance and participation are an essential part of learning the material in this class. After two absences, your attendance grade will be affected. If possible, please let me know in advance if you have to miss class.

READING: Students are expected to complete all assigned readings before class and come prepared to discuss the material. The majority of the readings will come from the assigned textbook; other reading assignments will be posted on Blackboard.

HOMEWORK: Homework assignments will be graded on both effort/completeness (50%) and accuracy (50%). Excellent responses can receive extra credit. All assignments will be weighted equally, with the two lowest grades dropped at the end of the semester. We will review some homework answers in class each week.

EXAMS: There will be two in-class exams and one take-home exam. The average of your scores on these exams will count for 50% of your final grade. See the calendar below for dates. More details will be provided in class before each exam.

FINAL PROJECT & PRESENTATION: The final project will be a short paper which critically examines the real-world use of English, in a specific context of your choosing. The project should draw on course materials and readings. Part of your grade will be based on a short presentation of your topic and findings during the final week of class. More details will be provided in class.

Grading:

Attendance/participation	15%
Homework	25%
Exams	50%
Final project & presentation	10%

Class Policies:

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: Hunter College takes acts of academic dishonesty very seriously. You are expected to adhere to CUNY's standards of academic integrity, which are outlined here: <http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/studentaffairs/student-conduct/academic-integrity/cuny-policy-on-academic-integrity>

LATE OR MISSED ASSIGNMENTS: Makeup exams will be given only when prior notice of absence is received. Late homework will be accepted at my discretion and for partial credit. All homework and written assignments must be submitted in hard copy format unless permission is given to submit an electronic copy.

DIGITAL DEVICES: Laptops should only be used for class-related activities. Cell phones are to be kept silent and out of sight, unless given permission by the instructor. Inappropriate use of electronics will affect your participation grade.

ADA STATEMENT: Students with disabilities needing academic accommodation should: (1) register with and provide documentation to the Office of AccessABILITY located in Room E1214; (2) bring a letter to the instructor indicating what kind of accommodation is needed. This should be done during the first week of class. For more information about services available to Hunter College students, contact the Office of AccessABILITY at 212-772-4857; AccessABILITY@hunter.cuny.edu; or in person in Room 1214B East Building.

INCLUSIVITY & DIVERSITY: All students, regardless of background, affiliation, immigration status, or identity, are welcome in this class and as such, this class should be a safe space. If you feel that any instances of disrespect or discrimination are taking place, you are encouraged to call them out in class or discuss them with me privately. As an educator, I fully support the rights of all students to an education and I want to work with you to address anything that might be interfering with that.

Course Calendar (tentative and subject to change)

Monday, August 27	Introduction to class, Chapter Two: Language and Authority
Thursday, August 30	Chapter Three: English Phonology
Monday, September 3	NO CLASS
Wednesday, September 5 (CUNY Monday)	Chapter Three: English Phonology Homework #1 due
Thursday, September 6	Chapter Three: English Phonology Homework #2 due
Monday, September 10	NO CLASS
Thursday, September 13	Chapter Three + Chapter Four: English Morphology Homework #3 due
Monday, September 17	Chapter Four: English Morphology
Thursday, September 20	Chapter Four: English Morphology Homework #4 due
Monday, September 24	Wrapping up English Morphology + Review
Thursday, September 27	Exam #1 – in class
Monday, October 1	CLASS CANCELLED
Thursday, October 4	Chapter Five: English Syntax: The Grammar of Words Homework #5 due
Monday, October 8	NO CLASS
Thursday, October 11	Chapter Five: English Syntax: The Grammar of Words Homework #6 due
Monday, October 15	Chapter Six: English Syntax: Phrases, Clauses, and Sentences
Thursday, October 18	Chapter Six: English Syntax: Phrases, Clauses, and Sentences Homework #7 due
Monday, October 22	Chapter 7: Semantics
Thursday, October 25	Chapter 8: Spoken Discourse Homework #8 due
Monday, October 29	Review
Thursday, November 1	Exam #2 – in class
Monday, November 5	Chapter 11: Language Variation Homework #9 due
Thursday, November 8	Chapter 11: Language Variation
Monday, November 12	Chapter 11: Language Variation Homework #10 due
Thursday, November 15	Chapter 12: American Dialects
Monday, November 19	World Englishes Homework #11 due
Thursday, November 22	NO CLASS
Monday, November 26	Second Language Acquisition and Multilingualism Homework #12 due
Thursday, November 29	Language and Inequality (Exam #3 distributed)
Monday, December 3	Class wrap-up Exam #3 due
Thursday, December 6	Presentations
Monday, December 10	Presentations
Monday, December 17	Final project due