

English 255: Introduction to the English Language

Location	Education 310		
Times	11:00 – 12:15 a.m. Tu/Th		
Instructor	Jon Reinhardt		
E-mail	jonrein@arizona.edu	Office Phone	621-7395
Office Hours	Th 2 p.m. – 5 p.m. and by appt.	Office Address	ML 474

Required Texts:

1. Yule, G. (2006). **The Study of Language**. Cambridge University Press.
2. Napoli, Donna Jo. (2003). **Language Matters: A Guide to Everyday Thinking About Language**. Oxford University Press.

There are also required readings that will be available as PDF files or class handouts. You will also need to review a book from an Amazon list I have created (“All About Language”).

Course Description (Catalog)

This introductory course covers basic concepts in the study of the English language. It surveys six broad areas: 1) What is Language? 2) What is Linguistics? 3) The Biology of Language, 4) The Ecology of Language, 5) Language, Society, & Culture, and 6) Language and Power. Each area corresponds to a unit that contains several subtopics.

Course Homepage

The course D2L homepage will be central to the class—it will include the class schedule, surveys, the class discussion board, an archive of all the lecture Powerpoints, links to outside resources, and any supplemental course readings. Although I will make announcements in class and/or send e-mails regarding the assignments and schedule, it is your responsibility to check the homepage frequently for updates. If you have trouble accessing the site, let me know right away.

Activities & Projects

- In this class we will read about and discuss various topics related to language and linguistics. You are expected to do the reading and actively participate in class discussions (both in class and online) and activities. Course exams will be based on required readings and class lectures.
- Graded activities include three exams, online class discussions (one you will moderate and two in which you will participate), and a book review.
- Each exam will cover two units, and will cover the material presented in the lectures, texts, and readings. The final will not be comprehensive.
- For the online class discussions, you and one or two other students should moderate a discussion on a topic from class of your choosing. You should think of a question to spur discussion and post it to your assigned board. You will also be assigned to participate in two other boards (besides the one you moderate).
- Besides the two course texts, you will need to purchase (or borrow) a book of your choosing from the Amazon.com list I have created called ‘All About Language’ (<http://www.amazon.com/All-About-Language/Im/R2WVZVY23VEEHF>), or another book with my approval. You should read this book and write a review, with guidelines I will provide.

Assignments and Grading Scale:

Activity: possible points:	Grading Scale
Tests: 270 pts. Exam 1: 90 pts. Exam 2: 90 pts. Exam 3: 90 pts. Discussion Board: 60 pts. co-moderate one discussion: 30 pts. participate in 2 other discussions: 30 pts. Book Review: 120 pts. Class Writing & Participation: 50 pts.	A: 460-500 pts. B: 415-459 pts. C: 360-414 pts. D: 345-359 pts. F: less than 345 pts.
Total: 500 pts.	

Attendance Policy

Frequent absences will negatively impact your class participation, as there will be occasional in-class writing activities that will be collected and used to assess attendance and participation. If you miss an in-class writing you cannot turn it in late or make it up. All holidays or special events observed by organized religions will be honored for those students who show affiliation with that particular religion. Absences pre-approved by the UA Dean of Students (or Dean's designee) will be honored.

Academic Integrity

You are responsible both for all the material covered in class discussions as well as for the required readings. Please come to class prepared to contribute to an open and respectful environment of discussion and exchange of opinion. Threatening behavior, defined according to university policy (<http://policy.web.arizona.edu/threatening.pdf>) will not be tolerated.

Academic integrity is the pursuit of scholarly activity in an open, honest and responsible manner. All students should act with personal integrity, respect other students' dignity, rights and property, and help create and maintain an environment in which all can succeed through the fruits of their efforts. Dishonesty of any kind will not be tolerated in this course. Refer to the Student Code of Academic Integrity for more information at: <http://dos.web.arizona.edu/uapolicies>

Students with Disabilities:

If you anticipate issues related to the format or requirements of this course, please meet with me. I would like us to discuss ways to ensure your full participation in the course. If you determine that formal, disability-related accommodations are necessary, it is very important that you be registered with Disability Resources (621-3268; drc.arizona.edu) and notify me of your eligibility for reasonable accommodations. We can then plan how best to coordinate your accommodations.