

English 110A – Linguistics & the English Language – Spring 2009

Section 1 (31815): MW 12-1:15, CLV 134

Section 2 (31816): TTh 3-4:15, CLV 135

Fred Marshall

Office: 278-6247

e-mail: fredm@csus.edu

Home: 682-8129

home page: www.csus.edu/indiv/m/marshallf

Office: Calaveras 164      Hours: Tues.-Wed.-Thurs 1:30-2:30 pm, & by appointment

Texts (required): *Relevant Linguistics* (2<sup>nd</sup> edition), by Paul Justice

**Overview:** This is a survey course covering a description of modern English and the basic concepts of modern linguistics. This course is required for the English single-subject teaching credential, and is a pre-requisite for all TESOL program graduate classes. The primary teaching method will be lecture-discussion. All university policies apply, as detailed in the CSUS Catalog and 2008-09 Class Schedule.

In this course, you should learn how linguists view regularity in language, as exemplified by data from English. You will learn how English spelling is an imperfect representation of sounds, how the sound system of English operates, how words and sentences are formed (or how they may be analyzed), how the language changes over time, space, and social setting, and how the language is learned by children and adults.

I expect that you will average 2 hours of work out of class for each class hour: this course meets for 3 hours per week; you should plan to average an **additional** 6 hours per week on course related study and homework.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

1. 4 Exams: 1<sup>st</sup> 15%; others 25% each
2. Preparation, participation, homework: 10%
3. Optional Make-up Exam: If you do badly on any of the exams during the term, you can take 1 or 2 make-up exams during the scheduled final exam time. The make-up will be averaged with the original exam grade. Thus, the final is meant as an opportunity for students who have done poorly on one or more of the exams to show that they have mastered the course material.

**GRADING:**

Grading policy for the university is outlined in the Catalog. The following rubrics apply:

- ⇒A: Exemplary achievement; independent, creative work
- ⇒B: Superior achievement; significantly above satisfactory fulfillment of course requirements
- ⇒C: Satisfactory achievement; prepared for advanced study
- ⇒D: Unsatisfactory achievement, but not necessary to repeat course unless required by department
- ⇒F: Unsatisfactory achievement; no credit

**PHONES, etc.:** Turn off your cell phone before class. No texting during class. Computers may be used for note-taking during class, but not for random web-surfing.

### **ADD-DROP POLICY:**

I will add students up to a maximum of 30; beyond that I'll need to exercise judgment. If you want to add the class, you must sign the attendance sheet, send me an e-mail telling me that you want to take the class and enclosing your SacLink ID (not your password), and continue attending class. If you miss a class, I will drop you from the Wait List. Open University students cannot be added until the third week, and have a lower priority than regular students.

If you are registered, and you decide to drop the class during the first 2 weeks, please let me know by e-mail, so that I can decide whether to add additional people.

If you need to drop after the term is underway, be sure to contact me as soon as possible and complete the necessary petition. Any student who stops attending class but remains on the grade roster will receive a "WU" grade (unauthorized withdrawal), which counts as an "F" for the purposes of GPA calculations.

### **HOMEWORK & CLASS PREPARATION:**

There will be regular homework assignments, both reading and written exercises.

Reading assignments should be done as preparation for class, and reviewed as follow-up after class. Do not allow the reading to pile up, or you will soon be lost. On the exams, you are responsible for all of the material in the assigned readings, as well as the lectures. If you find the material difficult, be sure you read the assignment before class, and then go back and review it after class. As part of the reading, do all included "Quick Exercises". Raise questions in class about anything you don't understand.

The homework exercises are given to ensure that you have understood and can apply the concepts from the class. There is a complete answer key available online for these exercises, so do the exercises and check your answers; when you come to class, ask questions about any items that troubled you. I will collect these assignments to check that they are done, so prepare them neatly, in a form suitable to be turned in. I will **not** check them in detail; you are responsible for checking your answers against the answer key and asking questions about any points where you want further explanation. Completing this homework is the primary component of the 10% of the course grade for "Participation, preparation, and homework".

I will regularly post lecture notes to WebCT; you will find it useful to print them out and bring them to class.

### **EXAMS & ATTENDANCE:**

Exams will have problems similar to those on the homework, as well as definitions and essay questions. Make-up exams will be at my discretion, and then only if you have notified me before the exam that you will miss.

I expect regular attendance. You will find that missing a class seriously hinders your understanding of the material.

See me soon if you recognize you are having trouble. This course moves fast, and some of the material is cumulative, so you can easily fall far behind.