

Study of Words

Linguistics/Classics 1010, Section 010 – Spring 2004

Instructor: Adam Hodges

Syllabus *n.* plural syl·lā·bi /-ˈbi, -ˈbɛ/; *or* -bus·es Late Latin, alteration of Latin *sillybus*, label for a book, from Greek *sillybos* (circa 1656): a summary outline of a discourse, treatise, or course of study or of examination requirements

There are two ways in which language conveys meaning: through words and word combinations. Words are divided into STRUCTURE WORDS (e.g., prepositions and articles) and CONTENT WORDS (e.g., nouns, verbs, adjectives). We will focus on content words. English is a Germanic language, but about 65% of its content words come from Latin and Greek. Even more remarkably, about 90% of our ‘hard words’, both general and technical, come from Latin or Greek. Therefore, we will focus on words of Latin and Greek origin. We will study word histories (etymologies) by analyzing words into their component parts (prefixes, bases, combining forms and suffixes).

We will also study the processes of semantic change which word histories exemplify, e.g., METAPHOR. We will always keep in mind that words express concepts that are meaningful to HUMANS. Language is a dynamic social construct and it can be fully understood only once we understand the people who use it—their cultural institutions and values, their patterns of migration, and the cognitive abilities that they use to make sense of the world.

No one who lives in our culture fails to notice that there is a relationship between verbal skills and social status. If you do the work in this class you will increase the number of difficult words that you can use appropriately in writing and conversation and, perhaps more importantly, learn to *figure out* meanings of hard words that you’ve never encountered before. These skills will help you understand what’s at stake when people disagree about ‘proper usage’. In a certain type of learned discourse, the history of a word is used not only to explain what the word means but also to determine what it SHOULD mean. We will explore these kinds of arguments and discuss whether they remain valid in our socially and culturally diverse society.

LECTURE: MW 2-2:50 in EDUC 220

RECITATIONS:

Section 011 02:00 - 02:50 F in DUAN G2B60

Section 012 02:00 - 02:50 F in ECON 2

Section 013 03:00 - 03:50 F in HALE 240

Section 014 03:00 - 03:50 F in ECON 117

INSTRUCTOR: Adam Hodges

OFFICE: Hellems 162 (first floor in the center of Hellems, across from ALTEC lab)

EMAIL: Adam.Hodges@Colorado.edu

OFFICE HOURS: Mondays and Wednesdays 1-1:50

COURSE WEBSITE: <http://ucsu.colorado.edu/~hodgesaw/courses/spring2004/ling1010/>

This is the main course website and contains the complete syllabus, detailed assignment information, online readings, useful resources and a link to the WebCT login page where you will go to take the online quizzes and to check your grades.

TEXTBOOKS:

- ✓ *English Words from Latin and Greek Elements* by Ayers and Worthen
- ✓ Additional readings posted on website
- ✓ Access to a good *unabridged* dictionary with word etymologies

SCHEDULE: Study of Words, Spring 2004

WEEK 1	
Monday, January 12	Course introduction / syllabus What is language?
Wednesday, January 14	Language and modern linguistics READING: Get set up on WebCT and read the course syllabus
Friday, January 16	Recitation introductions ASSIGNMENT DUE: Name etymology
WEEK 2	
Monday, January 19	NO CLASS – MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY
Wednesday, January 21	Intro Lesson: Indo-European and history of English READING: pgs.1-13 PRACTICE QUIZ DUE
Friday, January 23	ASSIGNMENT #1 DUE: Intro Lesson pgs.13-14 (I, II, IV); Lesson I pgs. 23-25 (IV, VI, XI)
WEEK 3	
Monday, January 26	Lessons I-II (Latin): Dictionaries, defining words READING: pgs.16-34
Wednesday, January 28	Lessons III-IV (Latin): Latin bases, prefixes, abbreviations READING: pgs.35-45 QUIZ #1 DUE
Friday, January 30	ASSIGNMENT #2 DUE: Lesson II pgs. 31-34 (I, III:1-10); Lesson IV pgs.42-46 (I, II, III)
WEEK 4	
Monday, February 2	Lessons V-VI (Latin): Back formations, base combinations READING: pgs.46-56
Wednesday, February 4	Lessons VII-VIII (Latin): Hybrid words, suffixes READING: pgs.57-64 QUIZ #2 DUE
Friday, February 6	ASSIGNMENT #3 DUE: Lesson V pgs.48-51 (I, II, III, IV); Lesson VIII pgs.60-65 (I, II, III:1-10, IV)
WEEK 5	
Monday, February 9	Lessons IX-X (Latin): Word analysis, dissimilation and other sound changes READING: pgs.65-74 Review for exam
Wednesday, February 11	MIDTERM EXAM #1
Friday, February 13	Discuss exam
WEEK 6	
Monday, February 16	Lessons XI-XIII (Latin): Semantic change, functional change READING: pgs.75-89
Wednesday, February 18	Lessons XIV-XV (Latin): Pejoration, change from abstract to concrete READING: pgs.90-97
Friday, February 20	ASSIGNMENT #4 DUE: Lesson XI (I, II, IV); Lesson XV pgs.95-98 (I, II, III:1-10, IV)
WEEK 7	
Monday, February 23	Lesson XVI (Latin): Weakening and hyperbole READING: pgs.98-100
Wednesday, February 25	Lesson XVII (Latin): Changing concepts, diminutives READING: pgs..101-105 QUIZ #3 DUE

Friday, February 27	ASSIGNMENT #5 DUE: Lesson XVII pgs.103-106 (I, II, III, IV)
WEEK 8	
Monday, March 1	Lesson XVIII (Latin): Euphemism and taboo formation READING: pgs.106-111
Wednesday, March 3	Lessons XIX-XX (Latin): Folk etymology, clipping READING: pgs.112-119 QUIZ #4 DUE
Friday, March 5	ASSIGNMENT #6 DUE: Lesson XIX pgs.113-116 (I, II, III, IV); Lesson XX pgs.117-119 (I, II, III, IV)
WEEK 9	
Monday, March 8	Lessons XXI-XXII (Latin): Blends, doublets READING: pgs.120-127
Wednesday, March 10	Sweetser: Metaphorical Models of Thought and Speech READING: Available on WebCT QUIZ #5 DUE
Friday, March 12	ASSIGNMENT #7 DUE: Sweetser study sheet
WEEK 10	
Monday, March 15	Lesson XXIII (Latin): Latinisms in Shakespeare READING: pgs.128-131
Wednesday, March 17	MIDTERM EXAM #2
Friday, March 19	Discuss exam
SPRING BREAK, March 22-26	
WEEK 11	
Monday, March 29	Lessons XXIV-XXV (Latin): Metathesis, Latin expressions in English READING: pgs.132-142
Wednesday, March 31	Nunberg: What the Usage Panel Thinks READING: Available on WebCT
Friday, April 2	ASSIGNMENT #8 DUE: Nunberg study sheet; Lesson XXIV pgs.133-136 (II, III:1-10); Lesson XXV pgs.137-142 (III:choose 10)
WEEK 12	
Monday, April 5	Lessons I-II (Greek): Words from Greek mythology, history and mythology READING: pgs.160-177
Wednesday, April 7	Lessons III-V (Greek): Greek bases, combinations of bases, homonyms READING: pgs.178-186 QUIZ # 6 DUE
Friday, April 9	ASSIGNMENT #9 DUE: Lesson I p.169 (I, II)
WEEK 13	
Monday, April 12	Lesson VI (Greek): Reduplication, onomatopoeia READING: pgs.192-195
Wednesday, April 14	Lesson VII (Greek): Loan words, suffixes READING: pgs.196-200 QUIZ #7 DUE
Friday, April 16	ASSIGNMENT #10 DUE: Lesson VI pgs.193-196 (I, II, III, IV, V)
WEEK 14	
Monday, April 19	Lesson VIII (Greek): Word analysis, adjectival suffixes READING: pgs.201-203
Wednesday, April 21	Lessons IX-X (Greek): Place names, nominal suffixes, idioms READING: pgs.204-214 QUIZ #8 DUE
Friday, April 23	ASSIGNMENT #11 DUE: Lesson VIII pgs.202-204 (I, II, III, IV)

WEEK 15	
Monday, April 26	Conclusion
Wednesday, April 28	Review for Final Exam QUIZ #9 DUE
Friday, April 30	LAST DAY OF CLASSES
FINAL EXAM: Saturday, May 1st, 4:30pm – 7:00pm	

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADES

- ✓ **EXAMS:** There will be **two midterms** (50 points each) and a **cumulative final** (100 points).
- ✓ **ASSIGNMENTS:** **11** assignments (10 points each)
- ✓ **QUIZZES:** **9** quizzes on WebCT based on assignments and lectures (10 points each)

Final grade is out of 400 total points. Final letter grades will be assigned using the following scale.

A	93-100%
A-	90-92%
B+	87-89%
B	83-86%
B-	80-82%
C+	77-79%
C	73-76%
C-	70-72%
D+	67-69%
D	63-66%
D-	60-62%
F	<60%

ATTENDANCE

Attendance at lectures and recitations is essential and required for successfully completing this class. Make the most of your class time—come prepared ready to take notes and ask questions.

ASSIGNMENT DUE DATES AND CLASS PREPARATION

Assignments are due at the *beginning* of class on the due dates given in the syllabus. Assignments must be *typed* and *stapled* to receive full credit. Assignments must be turned in as hard copies, *NO* email attachments. Late assignments will not be accepted. Quizzes are available on WebCT from 3:00pm Wednesday until 2:00pm the following Wednesday.

SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS

If you have specific physical, psychiatric, or learning disabilities and require reasonable accommodations, please let me know early in the semester so that your learning needs may be appropriately met. You will need to provide documentation of your disability to Disability Services in Willard 322 (303-492-8671).

RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCES

The University of Colorado at Boulder has a legal and moral obligation to accommodate all students who must be absent from classes or miss scheduled exams in order to observe religious holidays. You will not be penalized for missing class due to a religious observance. You are responsible for notifying me of any conflicts prior to the missed class.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Cheating and/or plagiarism on any assignment/exam will result in an automatic grade of zero for that assignment/exam. Each student is expected to adhere to the CU Student Honor Code and follow the policy laid out therein.

“On my honor as a University of Colorado at Boulder student, I have neither given nor received unauthorized assistance on this work.”

Any of the following acts, when committed by a student at the University of Colorado at Boulder, shall constitute academic dishonesty:

- Plagiarism: Portrayal of another’s work or ideas as one’s own;
- Cheating: Using unauthorized notes or study aids, allowing another party to do one's work/exam and turning in that work/exam as one's own; submitting the same or similar work in more than one course without permission from the course instructors;
- Fabrication: Falsification or creation of data, research or resources, or altering a graded work without the prior consent of the course instructor;
- Aid of Academic Dishonesty: Intentionally facilitating plagiarism, cheating, or fabrication;
- Lying: Deliberate falsification with the intent to deceive in written or verbal form as it applies to an academic submission;
- Bribery: Providing, offering, or taking rewards in exchange for a grade, an assignment, or the aid of academic dishonesty;
- Threat: An attempt to intimidate a student, staff, or faculty member for the purpose of receiving an unearned grade or in an effort to prevent the reporting of an Honor Code violation.

More information on the CU Honor Code can be found at www.colorado.edu/academics/honorcode