

Winter 2018  
1/2-1/19  
Language and Communication  
English 302  
103 Cherry Hall; Owensboro, Elizabethtown, and Glasgow via ITV  
M-F: 900-1215 (Central Standard Time)  
Dr. Alex Poole  
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alex.poole@wku.edu  
Office Hours: M-F: 1230-100; by appointment

Note: Please read the following document closely. If any of the information is not clear, please let me know ASAP. Saying that you didn't understand or read the document completely is no excuse. Also, you must check your WKU email account daily for course updates and/or changes.

Required Course Texts:

1. Barry, A. (2002). *English grammar: Language as human behavior*. New Jersey: Prentice Hall.
2. McWhorter, J. (2001) *Word on the street: Debunking the myth of "pure" standard English*. New York: Perseus Books Group.

*Expected Learning Outcomes:*

- (1) Students will obtain a stronger understanding of Standard English usage.
- (2) Students will obtain a stronger understanding of the educational, social, and political issues surrounding standard and non-standard English.
- (3) Students will obtain a stronger understanding of the historical origins of Standard English.
- (4) Students will obtain a stronger understanding of the issues surrounding English language learners.

This class is intended for public school teachers. Therefore, we will learn material that is relevant for public school teachers. We will learn how to think critically and creatively about various aspects of language that will probably surprise you.

*Class Format:*

- (1) lecture
- (2) class discussion
- (3) small-group work
- (4) homework discussion
- (5) presentation of audio-visual materials
- (6) Q/A time

### *Evaluation:*

4 Tests-210 points

Test 1: 50 points

Test 2: 70 points

Test 3: 60 points

Test 4: 30 points

Homework: 10 points

Total: 220 points

### *Grading Scale:*

90-100=A; 80-89=B; 70-79=C; 60-69=D; 0-59=F

Grades will not be curved, nor will they be rounded up. That means that if you get an 89.9, you still get a B, or if you get a 79.9, you still get a C, etc.

**Exams:** Exams will generally be based on the course texts, additional readings, videos, and lectures. They will consist of multiple choice, matching, short-answer, true/false, text analysis, and essay questions. **If you miss an exam, you get a zero unless there is a documented health emergency of an immediate family member or (including you), or unless there are some other extenuating circumstances. In such cases, the exam must then be made-up within two days of the test date. If not, you get a zero.** Common colds, work, a friend's stomachache, etc—these are not valid excuses. I reserve the right to determine what does and what does not constitute an emergency.

**Homework:** Homework will generally be taken from the exercises in the course texts and from handouts given in class and/or emailed to you. We will discuss these in class to help you prepare for the exam. There will be 10 homework assignments, each worth 1 point. You will get credit for completing the assignment; however, 100% of the homework assignment must be completed. I will announce homework in class or over email. I will pick up all homework during the final exam period.

*Attendance Policy:* As such, there are no excused absences. If you are gone for whatever reason, you should get the notes from a reliable classmate. If there are some materials that you missed out on, you should come to my office to get them. **I won't remind you of what you missed. Do not email me or call me to go over the things you missed with you.** I do not teach the same thing twice. Likewise, if you come late, do not ask me to go over what you missed, and do not ask me to stop the lecture and give you a handout. It is your responsibility to get to class on time.

Let me make something perfectly clear: If you do not come to class consistently and keep up on your notes, you will do very poorly in the class. Be responsible: Come to class and study every day. You are going to be teachers; I assume this will not be a problem. If you are having problems with the material, **YOU** must seek help from me. I can't read minds.

*Contact:* Students may contact me via email or during office hours. I will generally return messages within 24 hours during the work week (weekends are excluded). In addition, please try to limit phone calls during office hours, as I reserve this time to work with individuals. Moreover, please limit your phone messages to logistical matters. If you have specific questions that are complicated in nature, please see me in my office, and do not leave things until the last minute because this diminishes our chances of being able to meet.

*Office hours:* As noted on page number one, I have 5.0 office hours a week. If necessary, students may make an appointment if they cannot come during regular office hours.

*Tentative Schedule:* The following is a tentative schedule of the semester. I reserve the right to make changes, if necessary. Students should check their e-mail on a daily basis in order to receive class updates and announcements.

Day One: January 2<sup>nd</sup>

Discussion of syllabus; lecture on fundamentals of language

Day Two: January 3<sup>rd</sup>

Videos: "Let There Be Words: The Origin of Human Language"; "Secret Life of the Brain"; "Thinking Aloud"

Day Three: January 4<sup>th</sup>

McWhorter Book; Ch. 3-Barry

Day Four: January 5<sup>th</sup>

**Exam #1**; Ch. 3-Barry

Day Five: January 8<sup>th</sup>

Ch. 4-Barry

Day Six: January 9<sup>th</sup>

Chapters 5 and 6-Barry

Day Seven: January 10<sup>th</sup>

Ch. 7-Barry; **Exam #2**

Day Eight: January 11th  
Chapters 8 and 9-Barry

Day Nine: January 12<sup>th</sup>  
Chapters 10 and 11-Barry

Day Ten: January 16<sup>th</sup>  
**Exam #3; Ch. 12-Barry**

Day Eleven: January 17<sup>th</sup>  
Second Language Acquisition Theory and Teaching Methods Lecture

Day Twelve: January 18<sup>th</sup>  
Second Language Acquisition Theory and Teaching Methods Lecture Continued  
Ovando article on language rights

Video on language rights

ESL-Mainstream Teacher Collaboration: <https://www.tesol.org/read-and-publish/journals/other-serial-publications/compleat-links/compleat-links-volume-4-issue-3-%28september-2007%29/together-we-are-better>

Dove and Honegsfeld article on Blackboard

Video about co-teaching (in-class)

Day Thirteen: January 19<sup>th</sup>  
**Exam #4; homework due**

### **Student Disability Services**

In compliance with university policy, students with disabilities who require accommodations (academic adjustments and/or auxiliary aids or services) for this course must contact the Office for Student Disability Services in DUC A-200 of the Student Success Center in Downing University Center.

Please DO NOT request accommodations directly from the professor or instructor without a letter of accommodation from the Office for Student Disability Services.

### **The Learning Center (TLC) (located in the Academic Advising and Retention Center, DUC-A330)**

Should you require academic assistance with this course, or any other General Education Course, there are several places that can provide you with help. TLC tutors in most major undergraduate subjects and course levels throughout the week. To make an appointment, or to request a tutor for a specific class, call 745-6254 or stop by DUC A330. Log on to TLC's website at

[www.wku.edu/tlc](http://www.wku.edu/tlc) to find out more. TLC hours: M-Thur. 8am-9pm, Fri. 8am-4pm, Sat.-Closed, and Sundays 4pm-9pm.