

MWSC Division of Liberal Arts & Sciences  
Department of English, Foreign Languages, & Journalism  
Spring 2001

English 232: Language Awareness  
11:00 MWF 105 Murphy

Professor: Dr. Kaye Adkins  
Office: 309F Murphy (until Feb.)  
Phone: 271-5967  
Email: [kadkins@griffon.mwsc.edu](mailto:kadkins@griffon.mwsc.edu)  
Office Hours: 9:00-9:50 MWF  
12:00-12:50 MWF  
By appointment TTh

Required texts and materials:

Clark, Eschholz, and Rosa, "Language: Readings in Language and Culture," 6<sup>th</sup> ed.

Jeffries, "Meaning in English: An Introduction to Language Study"

Course Objectives: This course will provide a foundation in linguistics and an overview of current language theory. Because the course is an introduction to language study, students will read and discuss a wide range of language issues. These include:

- What is language?
- How do languages change?
- How does variety in language, including segmental and non-segmental elements, affect notions of correctness?
- Why do languages change?
- How can the study of language give us insights into how individuals think?
- How can the study of language give us insights into how societies function?
- How does language shape our perceptions of reality?

Finally, language is playful. Many of us became English majors because we are intrigued by language. We even love it. (Imagine listening to a really great reading of your favorite work of literature.) In this course, we will be playing with language and looking at the way others play with language in literature and popular culture.

Assignments: Students should come to class prepared to discuss the assigned readings. You will gain much more from this class by discussing and debating the issues raised in the readings instead of waiting for me to lecture about them. Students will also be assigned exercises (I prefer to think of most of them as language games) to be completed in class or as homework. There will also be six tests and a comprehensive final exam drawn from the tests. Students will also keep a file of items that raise or illustrate language issues.

Grades will be weighted as follows:

Daily work and class participation	25%
Unit tests	20%
Final exam	20%
Language file	15%
"Cultural artifact" paper	10%
Short field work assignment	10%

Absences: Students with four unexcused absences will have their grade lowered one letter grade. If you miss class on a day you were scheduled to discuss another student's writing, return a copy of the student's text to him or her with marks and comments. If you must miss class and know in advance please contact me.

Academic honesty: "Since honesty in the classroom is required, cheating, plagiarism, or knowingly furnishing false information to the college constitutes a violation." Policy Guide II, B, C. In other words, the work you turn in should be your own.

Disabilities: Please let me know during the first week of class about any physical handicap or learning disability if you need special help or accommodation in order to do your best work.

Disclaimer: I try to adapt each of my classes to the needs and interests of the students. This means that the Schedule of Assignments may change.