

**Modern Grammars Syllabus--TTh 9:25**  
English 3312 (Section 2068); Irby 312  
Melchior: Spring 2006 (Office Irby 317C)

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Office Hours: MWF 11-12, 1-2; TTh 1:00-3:00  
(if no meetings)

**Enroll in WebCT:** see instruction sheet at the end of the syllabus.

**Textbook:** Fromkin, Rodman, and Hyams. *An Introduction to Language*, 7th ed.

Fromkin, Rodman, and Hyams will be our major text throughout the semester. About ½ to 1 chapter (plus homework problems) will be assigned for each class meeting (probably taking every bit of 2 hours to complete). Since many readings and problems will be on my website, check the syllabus when you're absent, so that you can download these, hopefully in time to complete the homework for class. Tests will be similar to homework problems and will involve "working problems" more than memorizing terminology. There will be 2 tests, an annotated bibliography, and a final examination.

General Schedule:

- I. Introduction: "What is Language?" (Chapter 1)
  - II. Sociolinguistics (Chapter 10)
  - III. Morphology (Chapter 3)--TEST
  - IV. Transformational Syntax (Chapter 4 and xeroxes)--TEST
  - V. Writing, and Spelling (Chapter 12 and xeroxes)
- Final Examination (comprehensive)

**Homework:** It is important to read the text *before* doing the problems. If you have trouble with a problem, find the pages in the text that explain that point and re-read. Since problems on tests resemble problems on homework, people who do the homework faithfully do considerably better on tests. No matter how clear things seem after reading or hearing an explanation, practice seems to be crucial in enabling people to remember and not get mixed up. (In previous semesters, people who did not do the homework mostly flunked or got D's.). Therefore, I'm going to spot-check the homework and count it toward your grade. Frequent oral participation in class and evidence of doing homework faithfully (which also means fewer than 5 absences will improve a major test up to 2%. Seven or more absences will lower a test up to 2%. If you know that you will be absent, you can turn in homework ahead of time for full credit and the absence will not count.

**Do not borrow a neighbor's homework when you are called on in class-- that slows the class down.**

**The Annotated Bibliography:** Read 4 sources (a source being an article or chapter in a book) from a list that will be distributed), then write a one-half-page summary of what each article says (not what it is about), presenting the whole thing in bibliography form. Include, also, your response to one of the articles.

**Attendance Policy:** 1-2 absences = +2 pts.; 5-6 absences= minus 2 pts. each; students absent 7 or more times (over 3 weeks) will be dropped with a WF.

**Grading:** The 2 tests, annotated bibliography, and final exam will all count equally, making a total of 4 grades (400 pts.) plus a few quizzes and other assignments (about 50 pts.). Class participation will be influential in borderline cases.

Help sessions: I will be happy to have you come by the office for help understanding the reading or homework during my office hours (sometimes I have meetings scheduled during x-period and will not be available).

If these times are not good for you, ask me about other possibilities.

**Plagiarizing:** Plagiarizing and any other forms of cheating can be cause for failing the course.

The University of Central Arkansas adheres to the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you need accommodation under this act due to a disability, contact the Office of Disability Support Services at 450-3135. For general academic policy and policy concerning sexual harassment see the Student Handbook.

**SYLLABUS** (assignments are to be completed by the day they are listed on)

I (Jan 17-19)

T Read Chapter 1 (pp. 3-28)

Do exs. 2,5,6,7 (pp. 30-31) (Questions #5, 6, 7 have “right” answers)

There may be True/False Quizzes (10 pts. each) over points from this chapter, particularly those related to homework questions and points on p. 27)

Th Do “Prescriptive Grammar” (download from my website)

Do question #10, p. 32 (only 2 or 3 song titles instead of 5 or 10)

II (Jan. 24-26)

T Sociolinguistics: Read Chapter 10 (pp. 445-68) (Possible True/False quizzes)

Write down an example of a vocabulary difference, a pronunciation difference, and a difference in “grammar” between 2 dialects (do not use examples given in the text).

Th Continue Chap. 10 (pp. 468-75).

Do ex. 9 (jargon) and think of a slang word or phrase, p. 492. (#3 on slang is optional)

III (Jan. 31-Feb. 2)

T Continue Chap. 10 (pp. 476-90).

Do exs. 8 (on register), pp. 494. (#12 is optional)

Th Morphology: Read Chapter 3 (pp. 69-82)– Possible true/false quizzes

Do 2, pp. 108-9 (#1 is optional).

IV (Feb. 7-9)

T Continue Chap. 3 (pp. 82-99)

Do 5, 6, pp. 110-3, and answer these additional questions: How is Zulu similar to English?

How is Zulu different from English? (Questions 10, 13 are optional— for fun)

Th Continue Chap. 3 (pp. 99-108)-- note important chart on p. 104

Do 3, 4 (omit d), 7, 11 (5 of each rather than 10), and 15, pp. 109-114. Also, give an example of a compound, a blend, and an abbreviation not in the text.

V (Feb. 14-16)

T Download “Grammatical Class Summary,” “Function Word Summary” and Review Sheet for Test from website

Do Noun Exercise (xerox, download from my website)

Review for test

## Th Morpheme Test

### VI (Feb. 21-23)

- T Do "Verbs Exercise" (xerox to be downloaded from website).
- Do "Sentence Patterns" and "Identifying the Function & the Pattern" xeroxes (download)

Th Syntax (transformational): Read Chapter 4 (pp. 117-30)– possible quizzes

- Do 2, 3 (a-e), 11, pp. 166-69. [Note on #3: Give a grammatical explanation of the ambiguity (as on the test) for "a" and "c"]; for ex. 11, see pp. 126-8.

### VII (Feb. 28-Mar. 3)

- T Read pp. 130-45
- Do 1, 3(f-i), 4, 12, pp. 166-69

Th Read pp. 146-51, 159-62

- Do #6 and #18, pp. 166-71

### VIII (Mar. 7-9)

- T Read pp. 152-59, 164-70
- Do # 7, 16, 17, pp. 169-70

Th Review for Test (download review sheet from website)

- Introduction to Bibliography reading (assignment and sample summary available on my webpage)

### IX (Mar. 14-16)

- T Test (pick up xerox to be used for exercises next week)
- Th Turn in one annotated bibliography summary (typed, double-spaced). Use MLA form for the bibliographic data at the head.

## Spring Break

### X (Mar. 28-30)

- T Do "Verb Form Transformation" xerox (download from my website)
- Th Do "Simple Transformations" xerox (download from my website)

### XI (Apr. 4-6)

- T Read xerox "Transformations Using Fragments," pp. 129-34 (xerox passed out in class)
- Do exs. 3-4, pp. 133-4 (on xerox).
- (DOWNLOAD EMBEDDING SUMMARY from my website)

Th Revisit ex. 6 (pp. 166-7 in textbook), which you have already done: Break d,g,k,m,n,o into receiver & insert sents.

- Turn in a second annotated bibliography summary (typed, double-spaced).

Correct the bibliographic citation turned in earlier and do a second citation (for a journal if you chose a book for your first summary or a book if you earlier chose a journal). You will thus have practiced the form for both books and journals.

XII (Apr. 11-13)

- T Read xerox "Transformations Using Fragments," pp. 134-42.  
Do exs. 5-7, pp. 140-2 (on xerox). (In ex. 6D, omit #5 and #6)  
Do embedded adjective web exercise (download from website)

Th Continue reading "Trans. Using Frags." xerox (pp. 142-5)

Do exs. 8 (6 pairs of sentences), pp. 144-5. (See p. 142 for "subordinators")

Make up 5 pairs of sentences using one of the words in Column 4 (from Adverbial Table on third page of Embedding Summary web handout) somewhere in the second sentence of each pair.

XIII (Apr. 18-20)

- T Annotated Bibliography due  
Bring Absolute web exercises #1 and #2 (download from website)-- we'll do these in class.

Th Do Embedding Review web exercise (download from web)

Do Passive Review web exercise (download from web)

XIV (Apr. 24-27)

- T Writing: Read Chapter 12, pp. 545-67

Read short spelling xerox (be prepared to give reasons spelling reform will not occur).

Do exs. #5 and #6 in main text, pp. 569-70. See bottom spelling xerox p. 378 for pertinent point.

Th Review for final exam— bring review sheet, downloaded from web.

FINAL EXAMINATION (comprehensive)