



**ENG 555: General Linguistics**  
**Fall 2014, web-based**

**Instructor:** Christian F. Hempelmann

**Office:** Hall of Languages 226

**Office Hours:**

*online* workdays 10am–10pm

*office* W 2–4pm

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*Note: This syllabus will be revised during the semester as deemed necessary*

**Instructor Information** Information about my professional life and research interests can be found [at this website](#).

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**Student Orientation Tutorial (SOT)** Under **My Courses/Special Courses** you will find the **NExT SOT** (Student Orientation Tutorial). If this is your first on-line course, **it is imperative that you take this tutorial**. It's an excellent introduction on how to navigate eCollege. It's also a good review if you feel rusty in eCollege operations.

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**Course Description** In this course you will become familiar with the assumptions, goals, terminology, and methodology of modern descriptive linguistics. In the first part of the course we will cover in detail phonetics, the sound systems of language (principally U.S. American English), English morphology, processes of English word-formation, and the intersection of phonology and morphology, or morphophonology. Although this part of the course emphasizes linguistic analysis, it should also motivate you to examine carefully your own beliefs and attitudes about language. Doing so should lead you to understand and appreciate the change that language constantly undergoes in personal and social use. Understanding and appreciating change are necessary steps in becoming more tolerant of the variation in language use from one individual to the next, from one group to the next, and even in your own language.

In the second part of the course we shall look at Artificial Languages in our extended reading.

## Catalogue Course Description

Hours: Three

An advanced survey of applied language science with an emphasis on the relationship between the structural systems of language and the mental representation of ordinary experience. Stresses phonology, morphology, and syntax.

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### Course Policies & Procedures

This course consists of a series of activities and assessments to assist you in achieving the outcomes/objectives for the course and instructional units/modules. Each week you will have a reading and during the term up to six (6) major homework assignments, up to two quizzes and two examinations. By mid-term you should begin reading your Extended Reading book, **From Elvish to Klingon**, by Michael Adams. Questions on **From Elvish to Klingon** will appear on your Final Examination.

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### Course Outline/Calendar

Below you will find a week-by-week description of the readings and coursework to be covered in English 555. Detailed page numbers as well as due dates for each assignment are given in the content portion of each week's Overview, which will be available on Monday (12:01 am) of each week. There is a reason for this. I am purposefully pacing your work because we are learning a skill (phonetic transcription, phonological, and morphological processes) that is best acquired with practice over time.

Week 1 8/25 – 8/31 Justice Chapter 1  
Week 2 9/1 – 9/7 J Chapter 2 **Phonetics**  
Week 3 9/8 – 9/14 J Chapter 2 **Phonetics** Assignment #1  
Week 4 9/15 – 9/21 J Chapter 2 **Phonetics** Quiz #1  
Week 5 9/22 – 9/28 J Chapter 3 **Phonology** Assignment #2  
Week 6 9/29 – 10/5 J Chapter 3 **Phonology**  
Week 7 10/6 – 10/12 J Chapter 3 **Phonology** Assignment #3  
Week 8 10/13 – 10/19 **Mid-Term Examination Week**  
Week 9 10/20 – 10/26 J Chapter 4 **Morphology**  
Week 10 10/27 – 11/2 J Chapter 4 **Morphology** Assignment #4  
Week 11 11/3 – 11/9 J Chapter 4 **Morphology** Quiz #2  
Week 12 11/10 – 11/16 J Chapter 4 **Morphophonology** Assignment #5  
Week 13 11/17 – 11/23 J Chapter 5 **Thanksgiving**  
Week 14 11/24 – 11/30 J Chapter 5 **Morphophonology**  
Week 15 12/1 – 12/7 J Chap. 5 **Morphophonology** Assignment #6  
Week 16 12/8 – 12/14 **Final Examination**

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### Student Learning Outcomes

A student who successfully completes English 555 will:

1. become aware of his/her attitudes to varieties of English and other languages;

2. learn in detail the linguistic components of varieties of language (phonology, morphology, syntax, etc.);
3. learn how to transcribe the English orthographic system in phonetic symbols;
4. learn how words are formed in English and how these creative processes constantly manifest themselves in contemporary varieties of English;
5. learn to appreciate all varieties of language;
6. learn to put this respect into action in the language-teaching classroom.

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**Communication:  
Virtual Office &  
e-mail**

Please post questions about the course and materials in the **Virtual Office** so all students can benefit from your question and from answers by me and other students answer. I check the **Virtual Office** once a day, so for urgent, as well as private, issues send me an **e-mail**. While I have access to it, I won't normally check the **Student Lounge**, which is intended for interactions among the students of this course.

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**Phonetic  
Transcription**

Using phonetic fonts on a computer can be a challenge. Thankfully, a UCLA phonetician named Bruce Hayes has made it somewhat easier. Below is his website where you will find how to download *Doulos SIL*, a set of phonetic fonts that includes both IPA (International Phonetic Alphabet) as well as APA (American Phonetic Alphabet) fonts.

SIL fonts are freeware. SIL is located near Cedar Hill in Dallas. The organization has an [interesting history](#).

SIL helped my colleague Robert Baumgartner, on whose course this course shell is based, to develop specialized software he needed to publish his book *The English Language in Pakistan* (Oxford, 1993). They participate in an annual local linguistics conference that will be hosted by our department this next year: [DFW Metroplex Linguistics Conference](#)

Please go to Bruce Hayes' website and download *Doulos SIL* in order to have the phonetic fonts you will need for English 555 assignments. You will need APA since Justice uses it in our text. I know you're all tech-savvy and will find this to be a breeze! Feel free to ask for assistance at our IT helpdesk.

<http://www.linguistics.ucla.edu/people/hayes/Fonts/>

For general instructions on how to install fonts, google "install font Windows" or "install font Mac OS X" depending on your denomination. For almost all of you, the instructions on the download page will be enough information.

For html code that represents most characters we'll need for phonetic transcription, you can consult [this page at Penn State](#).

## Submitting Assignments

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You will have up to 6 assignments during the course. Please place your assignments (in Word document format: .doc or .docx) in the *Dropbox* specified for assignments 1 through 6. Late assignments will not be graded and will receive a grade of zero.

Your assignments should be submitted in designated Dropboxes under each particular week. Click Dropbox in the Tool Bar to access dropboxes (see further steps below). Assignments will not be accepted by e-mail.

Remember that your assignments should be submitted using *Microsoft Word* (either PC or Mac). If you are using any other word processor, you must convert your files to MS Word or RTF (rich text format) before submitting them.

*You are responsible for submitting a file I can read. If I can't read your first submission, I will alert you and give you the opportunity to correct the problem. After the first time, if you submit work that I cannot read, you will be given a zero on that assignment if the due date has passed.*

In order to submit an assignment using the Dropbox, please follow the following steps:

1. Click **Dropbox** tab
2. Click **Submit an Assignment**
3. Select **Basket** (e.g. Week 1, Assignment 1)
4. Add **Attachments** (3 steps--Select File, Attach File, OK)
5. Add **Comments** (if any)
6. Verify that your Attachment is attached.
7. If all is OK, click **Submit**
8. If your Assignment was successfully submitted, you will see **OK**. (If you don't see OK, you need to identify the problem.)
9. Your assignment then goes to the **Outbox** of your Dropbox. Once it is graded, it will be back in your **Inbox**.

*You are responsible for submitting your work correctly and on time. Please remember to put your name on all work you submit. Papers with no names will have two (2) points subtracted from the final grade.*

## Quizzes and Examinations

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You will have two quizzes in English 555. The first quiz is during Week 4 and the second during Week 11. Details on quizzes will be given as the quiz approaches.

The Mid-Term Examination is during Week 8 and the Final Examination is during Week 16.

Failure to take a quiz or an examination during the given time limit (normally three days,

two for the Final Examination) will result in zero on the quiz/examination. Missed examinations and quizzes cannot be made up.

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**Discussions** In most weeks we will have an online discussion, in which you can participate. It will usually be in response to our textbook chapters, but occasionally other online materials as well. You can ask questions, answer the questions of other students, or comment on the readings. Participation in the discussion can help you reflect on the readings as well as earn you up to 10% of the course grade in extra credit for all discussions combined.

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- Textbooks**
- Justice, Paul W. 2004. *Relevant Linguistics: An Introduction to the Structure and Use of English for Teachers*. 2nd Revised & Expanded Edition. Stanford, CA: CSLI Publications. ISBN 1-57586-218-2.
  - Adams, Michael. 2011. *From Elvish to Klingon*. Oxford University Press. ISBN 978-0-415-60271-6 (see Extended Reading)
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**Extended Reading** The spread of the English language throughout the world is an unprecedented phenomenon in recorded history. No language has ever been used by so many people in so many places. What Zamenhof had hoped for in the creation of the artificial language Esperanto (a world-wide *lingua franca*) is now being realized by a natural language—English. While English may not be spoken as a mother tongue in many countries of the world (Spanish is spoken in more countries than English), it enjoys the distinction of serving as an official language and being used as a second language in numerous domains in former British colonies. English is also the most-studied foreign language world-wide and is the language most often used on the Internet.

In his recently published book, *From Elvish to Klingon*, Michael Adams discusses not only this phenomenal spread of English, but also the phenomenon of artificial languages and how they serve as a generator of new English lexical items and usage.

You should begin reading this *Extended Reading* book at least by mid-term. It will appear on the *Final Examination*.

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**Grading Criteria** Your final grade will be based on the following components:

60	Assignments
100	Mid-Term Examination
100	Final Examination
40	Quizzes

30 *Discussions (extra credit)*

**300 Total**

A: 270-300

B: 240-269

C: 210-239

D: 180-209

F: 179 & below

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**Late Work Policy** No late work will be accepted. No exceptions. Work should be submitted by midnight, Central time, on the due date that is given in the week's assignment. Missed quizzes or examinations likewise can't be made up.

If you are having difficulties completing your work, please let me know *before* the work is due.

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**Drop Course Procedure** Course Drop Procedure:

A student may drop a course by logging into their myLEO account. After logging into the myLEO account click on the hyperlink labeled 'Drop a class' from among the choices found under the myLEO section of the Web page. You will then select the class you need to drop along with the reason for dropping the class. Once the drop request is completed by the student it will then be routed to the instructor for approval.

Upon instructor approval the student drop request will be sent to the Office of the Registrar for processing. A student may access myLEO to view their drop and they should also receive an email notification to their myLEO email.

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**Online Courtesy (Netiquette)** All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment (See *Student's Guidebook*, Policies and Procedures, Code of Student Conduct).

I expect that students will exhibit courtesy toward others in this online class. Courtesy means not engaging in rudeness or refusing to focus on group or class discussions. Courtesy means engaging in such behaviors such as paying careful attention to others, accepting that various points of views can be valid, and treating others as you wish to be treated.

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**Student Technical Support &** Course Concerns:  
If you have questions pertaining to the content of this course (e.g., questions about an exam, about course due dates, etc.), please contact your instructor via email, through the

**Library Access** "Virtual Office," or during office hours.

**Other Questions/Concerns:**

Contact the appropriate TAMU-C department relating to your questions/concern. If you are unable to reach the appropriate department with questions regarding your course enrollment, billing, advising, or financial aid, please call 903-886-5511 between the hours of 8:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

**Student Code of Conduct:**

The A&M-Commerce Student [Guidebook](#) (page 55) details student rights and explains grievance procedures. The guidebook includes the Student Code of Conduct.

**eCollege Technical Concerns:**

Please contact the eCollege HelpDesk, available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, by sending an email directly to [helpdesk@online.tamuc.org](mailto:helpdesk@online.tamuc.org). You may also reach the HelpDesk by calling (toll-free) 1-866-656-5511 OR 720-920-6656. The eCollege Helpdesk may also be reached through Chat by clicking on the 'Help' link at that top of this page, and then clicking on the 'Contact Help Desk' link.

**Accessing Library Databases & Tutorials:**

To access the Library databases and Library tutorials you must open a separate browser session. Minimize your eCollege session and open another browser window going to the Library's web site directly: <http://www.tamuc.edu/library> not from within eCollege.

Currently enrolled students wanting to access databases from abroad:

1. Install the VPN client software from: <https://vpn.tamuc.edu>.
2. Open the installed VPN application and enter personal login information as follows:

*Login:* student\<(your CWID) (Example: student\12345678)

*Password:* (enter your myLeo password)

**Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty**

Plagiarism is the presentation of the words or ideas of another person as your own. This will result in failure for the work plagiarized and possibly a failure in the course. Be sure to give credit in your papers for all borrowed language and ideas. I will assume that you are able to distinguish scholastic use of sources and cooperative work with your classmates from plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty. If you have any questions, however, please speak to me. No level of dishonesty is acceptable. For further information please see the *Academic Honesty* statement of the Department of Literature and Languages below.

Department of Literature and Languages  
Texas A&M University-Commerce Policy #12  
April 28, 2003

Preamble. Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all their scholastic work. Faculty members are expected to employ teaching practices that encourage academic honesty.

Academic Dishonesty Defined. Texas A&M University-Commerce defines “academic dishonesty” in the following way (Procedure A13.12 “Academic Honesty”):

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, plagiarism (the appropriation or stealing of the ideas or words of another and passing them off as one's own), cheating on exams or other course assignments, collusion (the unauthorized collaboration with others in preparing course assignments), and abuse (destruction, defacing, or removal) of resource material.

Plagiarism” Further Specified. The Department of Literature and Languages builds on the university definition of “plagiarism,” given in 1, in the following manner (taken from “Defining and Avoiding Plagiarism: The WPA [Council of Writing Program Administrators] Statement on Best Practices,” undated, pages 1-2, 12 March 2003. <<http://www.ilstu.edu/~ddhesse/wpa/positions/WPAplagiarism.pdf>>):

Plagiarism occurs when a writer deliberately uses someone else’s language, ideas, or other original (not common-knowledge) material without acknowledging its source. [. . .] Ethical writers make every effort to acknowledge sources fully and appropriately in accordance with the contexts and genres of their writing. A student who attempts (even if clumsily) to identify and credit his or her source, but who misuses a specific citation format or incorrectly uses quotation marks or other forms of identifying material taken from other sources, has not plagiarized. Instead, such a student should be considered to have failed to cite and document sources appropriately.

Collusion” Further Specified. Collusion specifically includes selling academic products. According to the Texas Penal Code (Title 7 Offenses Against Property, Chapter 32 Fraud, § 32.50 Deceptive Preparation and Marketing of Academic Product), an “‘academic product’ means a term paper, thesis, dissertation, essay, report, recording, work of art, or other written, recorded, pictorial, or artistic product or material submitted or intended to be submitted by a person to satisfy an academic requirement of the person.”

The Texas Penal Code also specifies that person commits a Class C misdemeanor offense “if, with intent to make a profit, the person prepares, sells, offers or advertises for sale, or delivers to another person an academic product when the person knows, or should reasonably have known, that a person intends to submit or use the academic product to satisfy an academic requirement of a person other than the person who prepared the product.”

1. Responsibility. Matters of academic dishonesty are handled initially by the instructor. If the instructor feels the problem warrants more attention, it should then be pursued through the department head. If the department head and instructor wish, it should be



brought to the attention of the dean of the college for study and review before being referred to the University Discipline Committee (adapted from Texas A&M University-Commerce Procedure A13.04, "Plagiarism").

2. Instructors may also choose to refer cases directly to the University Discipline Committee (Texas A&M University-Commerce Code of Student Conduct 6.a[2]).

3. Statement for Course Outlines. Instructors of record in the Department of Literature and Languages are required to include an Academic Honesty statement in all course outlines. The following language is suggested for that statement:

4. Instructors in the Department of Literature and Languages do not tolerate plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty. Instructors uphold and support the highest academic standards, and students are expected to do likewise.

5. Penalties for students guilty of academic dishonesty include disciplinary probation, suspension, and expulsion. (Texas A&M University-Commerce Code of Student Conduct 5.b[1,2,3])

6. This Policy supersedes Department of Literature and Languages Policy #12, "Plagiarism," dated October 10, 1990, and will be effective until further notice.

7. The Head of the Department of Literature and Languages is responsible for maintaining this policy current.

Gerald Duchovnay, Head,  
Department of Literature and Languages

### **Teacher Certification**

If you are seeking teacher certification in English, Spanish or ESL, you must pass the TExES, the state's certification examination. The TExES Preparation guides describing the English (#117, #131) and the ESL (#154) exams may be downloaded at

<http://www.texas.com>

Dates for the exam as well as university registration deadlines are available at the A&M-Commerce Educator Certification website: <http://excet.tamu-commerce.edu/registration.htm>. Additional information regarding teacher certification in English, ESL, and Spanish is available in the main office of the Department of Literature and Languages, or from the following faculty advisors: Dr. Donna Dunbar-Odom (English Adviser), HL 141, Telephone 903-886-5253, [Donna.Dunbar-Odom@tamuc.edu](mailto:Donna.Dunbar-Odom@tamuc.edu); Dr. Robert J. Baumgardner (ESL Adviser), HL 116, Telephone 903-886-5254, [Robert.Baumgardner@tamuc.edu](mailto:Robert.Baumgardner@tamuc.edu); Dr. Inma Lyons (Spanish Adviser), HL 221, 903-886-8774, [Inma.Lyons@tamuc.edu](mailto:Inma.Lyons@tamuc.edu)

(see also Major Policies below).

## MAJOR POLICIES

### English as a Second Language (ESL)

The ESL TExES differs from all other TExES exams in the Department of Literature and Languages. ESL is not a stand-alone certification; rather, it is an endorsement or add-on certification. Students may be working on an ESL endorsement as undergraduates, as graduate students, or under an emergency permit. However, because ESL is NOT a certificate, no distinctions between these groups of students is necessary.

Additionally, because of the nature of the ESL TExES, students may be approved to take the ESL along with another TExES test. This exemption applies ONLY to the ESL TExES.

The ESL Advisor is Dr. Robert Baumgardner. Contact information for Dr. Baumgardner  
Office: HL 116  
Telephone: 903-886-5254  
Email: Robert.Baumgardner@tamuc.edu

Students must meet with the ESL Advisor for evaluation and review of courses. Because so few students take the ESL TExES in any given year, regularly scheduled workshops are not available.

### Course Requirements

Undergraduate students are expected to take the undergraduate courses. Students enrolled in the Graduate ESL Endorsement program are expected to take the graduate courses. Emergency permit students may choose whichever courses(s) best fit their schedules.

Undergraduate	Graduate
English 301 or 331	English 501 or 555
English 358	English 558
English 457	English 557
English 462	English 562

### "At Risk" Criteria

Students must earn a "B" grade or above in three of the four required courses. Students who have earned more than one "C" grade are considered to be at risk and may have to

re-take a course or courses.

ESL practice test manuals are available from the Literature and Languages Main Office, HL 141. The manual is also available in electronic format at:

<http://www.tea.state.tx.us/teks>

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**Americans with  
Disabilities Act  
(ADA)**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services  
Texas A&M University-Commerce  
Gee Library  
Room 132  
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835  
Fax (903) 468-8148  
StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu