

Word Origins: CLA 1230 (Online)

Welcome to Word Origins, English Etymology from Greek and Latin!

Whew, that is quite a mouthful. In this course we'll cover everything from the Julius Caesar to text messaging all the while increasing your vocabulary. If you like literature, history, linguistics, politics, or general nerd trivia there is something in this course for you. So roll up your sleeves and let's begin with the syllabus....

About your Instructor

My name is **Jaclyn Dudek** and I'll be your instructor for this course.

I'm in the Department of Classical and Modern Languages, Literatures, and Cultures (also a mouthful), which is mostly housed in Manoogian Bld. You can reach me through Blackboard message feature (this is preferred) or email me directly at al5204@wayne.edu.

I have taught at Wayne State for six years. Currently, I'm working on my PhD at Penn State. This is one of my favorite courses to teach. It may seem a little scattered at first but my hope is that you can begin to see the power of language. It is perhaps the most distinguishing characteristic of what makes us human!

Required Books

Get these ASAP!

- Ayers, Donald M., **English Words from Latin and Greek Elements**, (The University of Arizona Press; 2nd edition (1986)) **ISBN-10:** 0-8165-0899-2 **ISBN-13:** 978-0-8165-0899-0
- Helena Dettmer, Marcia Lindgren, **Workbook to Accompany the Second Edition of Donald M. Ayers's English Words from Latin and Greek Elements** (ISBN 10: 0816523185 / ISBN 13: 9780816523184)
- Lehrer, Seth. **Inventing English: A Portable History of the English Language**. Columbia University Press. 2007. ISBN: 10:-978-073151-076-9.

You can find these books at Marwel's Book Store or Online. I like using abebook.com

Course Goals

- Expand the students' working vocabulary, understanding of English grammar and usage.
- Construe meanings and the language of origin of unfamiliar words from their bases suffixes and prefixes.
- Identify and understand the various mechanisms of language change.
- Understand the social political and cultural implications of language and consequently its manipulation.

Important Thematic Questions

- What are the various mechanisms of language change?
- What is the role of bards, songsters, poets, and storytellers in our language study?
- What are the social, political and cultural implications of language and consequently its manipulation?

Assignment Overview

Readings and Homework: Every week we will cover **two chapters** in the **Ayer's textbook**. Your homework will consist of doing exercises from the book and from the workbook. If you feel like you are having difficulty memorizing the various bases or need help expanding your vocabulary I encourage you to do more workbook activities. (They are quite easy and will take 5-10 minutes at the most.) Your other weekly readings will be from **Leher's Inventing English**. I will ask you to answer questions based on the readings they will also be the basis for many of your blogs and discussion forums. **Your Ayer's Homework is due every Wednesday and Friday (see schedule and course calendar)**

Activities: In addition to these texts I will provide many podcasts and videos that you will be required to watch/ listen and comment on. On the course schedule these outside sources will be listed as "Activities" (See schedule for more details.)

Blogs and Discussion Forums:

In a traditional course we would have many discussions some formal, most informal, however in a virtual environment that can be a little tricky. Every week I will post discussion questions on what you have read/ watched or learned. This is how I grade participation. Your responses to your fellow classmates and me, helps gauge if you have grasped the concepts. It also allows you to talk to your peers. You can't hide in this course; everyone's input is needed to help the learning process. Plus, I've found that if I say something students forget it in about 5 minutes but if a student explains it to your peers it's more likely to stick. So here's to sticky thoughts!

A normal Blog post is worth 20 pts. It will usually consist of 3-5 questions. You are required to answer 2-4 questions. You receive 10 points for your initial post and then 5 points for a quality comment on your fellow students' posts. I am looking for quality posts, comments like, "cool" or "I agree" do not count. I will post some samples so you can see what I'm looking for. Also see my policy on netiquette as a guide to writing informal discussions. **You should post your initial response by Thursday or Friday, this will give you time to comment on your peers. All posts and comment are due Sundays by 11:59 pm.**

Tests and Quizzes:

Every week there is a short quiz over the chapters in Ayers. It is 20 questions, it is timed, and you only have ONE chance. I encourage you to do your quizzes early so

you don't run out of time. **They are due Sundays by 11:59 pm.** (See schedule for more details) There will be a midterm and a final, which will follow a similar structure of the quizzes except longer.

Other notes:

Read all the directions, I can't stress this enough. Late work will not be accepted. Unfortunately computer problems due happen, however a broken computer/ lack of Internet are not valid excuses for late work. If you are having a personal issue that is affecting your role as a student you may want to consider dropping the course. I won't be offended and often it is better for your health/ state of mind. If you are having some personal trouble please contact me earlier rather than later. I try to be accommodating. There is no extra credit...bummer right?

Grading Scale and Point Distribution

The table below represents the grading scale that will be used for this class. The numeric scores represent percentages. For example, if there were 136 possible points (raw score) on an exam and you earned 120, your percentage would be 88%, which is an A-.

A+ 96-100	B+ 85-87	C+ 74-76	D 58-65	E 57 or below
A 92-95	B 81-84	C 71-74		
A- 88-91	B- 77-80	C- 66-70		

Weekly quizzes:	20 x 12	240 pts.
Midterm and Final	100 x 2	200 pts.
Weekly Discussions	20 x 13	260 pts.
Weekly Homework	10 x 26	260 pts.

960 pts. total

* This course is still in the development phase and I reserve the right to change the assignments as I see fit. There may be a small discrepancy in the number of discussions or homework assignments depending on the level of the students of the class. Any change to this initial distribution will be noted in advance to the class.

Netiquette and Communication

Netiquette is etiquette for the web. Since all of your correspondence will be through writing, please remember that we do not have tone or body language to help us interpret what you have to say. Please keep this in mind. Remember that using all caps is like you are YELLING. This is a formal academic setting so please refrain from vulgarity and profanity. Your writing, like your speech is a reflection of you, so make sure you double check for spelling and grammar. On the other hand, just like an informal conversation I am interested in what you have to say, miss keyed words

and imperfect grammar are par for the course. *Gonna* is not a word....yet. I don't mind emoticons in dialog but some blog posts are more formal than others so please read the directions. I will not mark you down unless it gets in the way of comprehension. Remember that I am not your peer or friend, I am your instructor. Please be respectful in addressing emails. It is a good rule of thumb to begin an email or message with a greeting or salutation. If you are writing me directly please include your first and last name and the course in your subject heading.

I am **not** available 24/7 for questions. I do **not** have a smart phone to check email consistently so please allow at least 24 hours space for me to reply. I will try to answer sooner than that. If you have a question, try asking your fellow students first or post it in the **Virtual Café**. I'm not exactly sure what my own schedule will be but I'll try to establish a consistent time that I'm online weekly.

Academic Dishonesty: Don't do it, period. Cheating, plagiarism, or other forms of academic dishonesty may result in any or all of the following: 1) failure on an exam, project, or paper, 2) failure in the course, 3) official reprimand entered on the student's transcript, or 4) dismissal from the university. Details may be found at the following WSU website: <http://www.doso.wayne.edu/judicial/academic-integrity.htm>

How to be a Successful Student in this Course Or ...How to Learn and Have Fun Too

A successful student is not necessarily one who gets an A. For me, success is based on engagement and sustained knowledge. Some students forget what they've learned a week or a month after the test. Hopefully by following these guidelines we can make lasting connections with the content and each other.

Overall Tips for Taking Online Courses

- Set aside a consistent time each week for this class.
- Keep your school computing time separate from your personal computing time.
- Create a folder on your desktop or in the cloud to store and organize files for this course...or any other for that matter.
- Do a little each day. You CANNOT/ SHOULD NOT complete the week's tasks at one sitting. Your brain will thank you.
- Exercise. I'm serious. It helps your brain retain information, increases energy and endorphins. Plus you've been sitting at a computer all day... so MOVE. I suggest ultimate Frisbee, gardening or free style dancing.

Do's and Don'ts

Do check in often, especially for the first 2-3 weeks.

Do share things that you encounter that are related to class.

Do have conversations about what you learned with people outside of class; parents, significant others and pets make great victims....I mean listeners.

Do ask questions of your fellow students and me.
Do help your fellow students...and sometimes your instructor ☺
Do your assignments in a timely manner.
Do bathe and maintain a hygiene regime....just because you can “attend” class in your pajamas doesn’t mean you can become a barbarian....*ok that is supposed to be funny.*

Don’t wait if you have a problem.
Don’t be rude or condescending.
Don’t take things too personally.
Don’t plagiarize, it’s just dumb.
Try to stay on topic (I provide an informal ungraded discussion forum for tangents, and a little tomfoolery.)

Course Topic Schedule and Assignment Break Down

Assignment Key

Ayers is the small red book the chapters are broken down into 2 large units: Latin Lesson (**LL**) and Greek Lessons (**GL**). The exercises are listed as roman numerals, (check out the handy index at the end of each unit.) Notice that we switch off doing odd and even sentences.

WB stands for Workbook, it is the big red book and the exercises correlate to the lessons (see bottom corner).

Blog is where our discussions will take place. Some are more formal than others so please read the directions.

Each week is organized into Modules. For those who want to work ahead I will open up a module a week ahead of time. Use the table of contents located in the upper left side of the screen so you don’t miss anything.

What’s Due and When

- Wed 11:59 pm– **HW#1 and Lerer Questions**
- Fri 11:59 pm– **HW #2 & Initial post for Blog**
- Sun 11:59 pm – **Quiz & Peer comments**

Week 0: 8/26-9/1

Topic: What is Language? About this Course and Introductions

Friday Blog (Introductions)

Sunday: Syllabus Quiz and Skill survey

Week 1: 9/2-9/8

Topic: Lexis and The Dictionary

Activities:

- Introduction to Oxford English Dictionary (OED)
- TED Talk: Erin McKean's dictionary

Wednesday: LL 1 hw

Ayers IV, p 24 all X, pg.25 all

WB #2, p.4 all

Friday: LL 2 hw

Ayers III, p.32 odds, pg 34 all

WB #2, p.6 all

Sunday: Quiz

Week 2: 9/9-9/15

Topic: Phonology and Sounds

Activities:

- TED Talk: Linguistic Genius of Babies
- Radio Lab : Music and Language (watch by Thursday)

Wednesday: LL 3 hw

Ayers III, p.39 odds

WB #1, p. 9 odds

Friday: LL4 hw

Ayers III, p.44 odds

WB #3, p.16 all

Blog post

Sunday: Quiz

Week 3: 9/16-9/22

Topic: Old English

Activities:

- Lerer *Inventing English* Intro and Chp.1 Caedmon Learns to Sing
- Opening lines of Beowulf

Wednesday: LL5 hw
Ayers III, p.49 odds
WB #10, p.27 all
Friday: LL6 hw
Ayers II, p.55 odds
WB #3, p. 30 odds
Sunday: Quiz

Week 4: 9/23-9/29

Topic: Language Change

Activities:

- Lerer Chp. 3 In this Year, Chp.4 From Kingdom to Realm

Wednesday: LL7 hw
Ayers II, p.58 odds
WB #1, p.35 all
Friday: LL8 hw
Ayers III, p.63 odds
WB #7, p. 48 all
Sunday: Quiz

Week 5: 9/30-10/6

Topic: Morphology and Case...um what is it?

Activities:

- Lexicon Valley: Grammatical Gender

Wednesday: LL9 hw
Ayers III, p.68 odds
WB #4, p.53 all
Friday: LL10 hw
Ayers III, p.73 odds
WB #3, p. 58 odds
Blog Post
Sunday: Quiz

Week 6: 10/7-10/13

Topic: Middle English and the Great Vowel Shift

Activities:

- Lerer Chp. 5 Lord of his Language Lerer, Chp. 7 The Great Vowel Shift
- Northern Accent Undergoing Vowel Shift

Wednesday: LL11 hw
Ayers III, p.80 odds
WB #5, p.65 all
Friday: LL 12 hw
Ayers III, p.85 odds
WB #1, p.69 all
Sunday: Quiz

Week 7: 10/14-10/20

Topic: Taboo Language
Wednesday LL 18 hw
Ayers III, p.111 odds
WB #4, p.106 all
Friday LL 25 hw
WB #7 & 8, p.147 all
Sunday: Quiz

Week 8: 10/21-10/27

Topic: Midterm and Intro to Greek
Wednesday GL1 (read only)
WB #1 & 2,
Friday GL2 (read only)
WB #1
Sunday: Midterm

Week 9: 10/28-11/3

Topic: Coining new words and Neologisms,
Activities: Lerer Chp. 10 Universal Hubbub Wild

Wednesday GL3 hw
Ayers III p.182 all
WB #2, p.169 all
Friday GL4 hw
Ayers IV, p. 186 odds
WB #2, p. 173 all
Sunday: Quiz

Week 10: 11/4-11/10

Topic: More about Dictionaries

Activities: Lerer, Chp. 12 A Harmless Drudge, Chp. 13 Horrid Hooting Stanzas

Devil's Dictionary

Wednesday GL5 hw

Ayers IV, p.190 odds

WB #5, p.178 all

Friday GL 6 hw

Ayers IV, p.194 odds

WB #3, p. 184 all

Sunday: Quiz

Week 11: 11/11-11/17

Topic: African American English

Activities: Lerer, Chp. 16 Ready for the Funk

Lexicon Valley

Wednesday GL7 hw

Ayers III, p.199 odds

WB #3, p. 194 all

Friday GL 8 hw

Ayers III, p.203 odds

WB #3, p.200 all

Sunday: Quiz

Week 12: 11/18-11/24

Topic: Ancient Languages and Writing Systems

Activities: Lerer, Chp. 19 He speaks in Your Voice

Wednesday GL 9 hw

Ayers III, p.111 odds

WB #3, p.204 all

Friday GL 10 hw

Ayers III, p. 214 odds

WB #1, p. 207 all

Sunday: Quiz

Week 13: 11/26-12/1 *Thanksgiving Break*

Topic: Take a break and no homework ☺

Week 14: 12/2-12/8

Topic: Conclusion and Wrap up

Wednesday GL 11 hw

Ayers III, p.218 odds

WB #1, p.213 all

Friday GL 12 hw
Ayers III, p.224 odds
WB #3, p.222 all
Saturday: End of Course Reflections

Final: Sunday, 12/15

