Language Structure (ComD 332), Winter Semester 2011

Professor: Ron Channell, PhD  Office: 128 TLRB  Phone: 422-6457 (office), 225-1526 (home)
e-mail: rwc5@byu.edu  Office Hours: M,T,W, Th 8:15-9:15 or by appointment or drop by

Scope of the Course
This class introduces students to the structure of the English language, which is commonly referred to as its grammar, and how language is processed in the mind and brain. Grammar refers to assembling word components (morphemes) and words themselves into conventional and meaningful sequences (syntax). We'll discuss a model of how a person processes language in their brain and how errors can occur in the speech and language of people who are otherwise typical, people who have had a brain injury, and children and others who are learning language.

What will you be able to do after successfully completing this course?
You will be able to describe English sentence structure using common descriptive terms like "noun" or "relative clause;" this is sort of like describing the anatomy of sentences. You'll also be able to explain how language is processed by the mind and brain. This is toward the ASHA KASA ("Knowledge And Skills Acquisition") standard III-B-Linguistic.

Texts
This text is most useful during the first half of the semester.
ISBN-13: 978-1-59756-283-6. This text will be the required text in Fall, 2011.

Computer Programs
Programs such as Phrazilla Grammar Practice let you practice coding many of the sentence structures that we'll discuss in class. These programs can be downloaded (without cost) for Mac or Windows at:
http://comd.byu.edu/rc/gcs.htm

Lab Sessions
About 5 hours per week of optional lab/help sessions will be available. The schedule for these sessions will be announced in class and posted on Blackboard.

Course Requirements
1. Complete any assigned reading or exercises before class meetings.
2. Come to class meetings. Borrowing notes is a nuisance to other students and is a poor substitute for your own encoding of class material.
3. Take all examinations on time, and do well.

Honor Code
I expect you to adhere to the Honor Code. Too many qualified people are not admitted to BYU because of enrollment ceilings to allow a space to be wasted on someone who isn't keeping their commitment to obey the code. Remember that the code applies to your behavior both on- and off-campus. Contents of quizzes and exams are confidential and you must not share them. This prohibition includes giving other students hints as to which areas to study or not study as well as sharing specific questions from the quiz or exam. Students caught cheating on an exam by Testing Center personnel receive a failing grade for the course and the incident is reported to the Honor Code Office.

Exams
We will have two midterm exams and a final exam. Exams are cumulative and cover class lectures, readings, and exercises. Exams will consist of computer-scored multiple choice questions. I'll give all exams in the testing
center. Each midterm exam will be worth a possible 100 points; the final is worth 200 points. You may take an exam late without penalty only when you provide advance written notice of serious or contagious illness, death, or extenuating circumstance to me (email is okay). Otherwise, late exams will be penalized 20 points per school day late. I record exam scores as a percentage of the high score in the class. Thus if the high raw score on an exam were 95, I would record the person scoring 95 as 100%; I would record a raw score of 92 as 92/95 or 97%.

**Quizzes**
We'll have about 10 quizzes. These quizzes will be on-line, through Blackboard, and will be about 10 multiple choice questions each. Together, the quizzes will count 100 points, the same as one exam. I will drop one quiz score, but no make-ups are permitted.

**Semester Grading**
I will base semester grades on the exams and the quizzes. The grading scale I use at the end of the semester is 95-100% of the possible points for an A, 90-94% A-, 87-89% B+, 83-86% B, 80-82% B-, 77-79% C+, 73-76% C, 70-72% C-, 67-69% D+, 63-66% D, 60-62% D-, and below 60%, an E. Extra credit is not possible. At the end of the semester the whole-class GPA has typically been between 2.9 and 3.1.

**Pace of the Term**
In class I'll try to help as many people understand as I can, but if it still isn't clear, e-mail me, call, or drop by. I'd much rather answer questions before the exam than after it.

**Preventing Sexual Harassment**
Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 prohibits sex discrimination against any participant in an educational program or activity that receives federal funds. The act is intended to eliminate sex discrimination in education and pertains to admissions, academic and athletic programs, and university-sponsored activities. Title IX also prohibits sexual harassment of students by university employees, other students, and visitors to campus. If you encounter sexual harassment or gender-based discrimination, please talk to your professor; contact the Equal Employment Office at 801-422-5895 or 1-888-238-1062 (24-hours), or http://www.ethicspoint.com; or contact the Honor Code Office at 801-422-2847.

**Students With Disabilities**
Brigham Young University is committed to providing a working and learning atmosphere that reasonably accommodates qualified persons with disabilities. If you have any disability, which may impair your ability to complete this course successfully, please contact the Services for Students with Disabilities Office (422-2767). Reasonable academic accommodations are reviewed for all students who have qualified documented disabilities. Services are coordinated with the student and instructor by the SSD Office. If you need assistance or if you feel you have been unlawfully discriminated against on the basis of disability, you may seek resolution through established grievance policy and procedures. You should contact the Equal Employment Office at 422-5895, or in D-382 ASB.

**Some Dates to Remember**
January 18 (Tuesday): Last day to drop classes without receiving a "W"
February 3 (Thursday) and February 4 (Friday): *Exam 1* in Testing Center
March 10 (Thursday) and March 11 (Friday): *Exam 2* in Testing Center
March 16 (Wednesday): Last day to drop classes for academic reasons
April 13 (Wednesday): Last day of Winter semester classes
April 16-21 (Saturday-Thursday morning): *Final Exam* in Testing Center