

**Department of French Studies
Western University**

**Linguistics 2130A
Wonders of Words**

Fall 2023

Professor

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UC3125

Office hours: TBD

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Although we use words constantly, they hold many mysteries. Where do they come from? How do they change and are learned? How do we know how to pronounce and interpret them? This course introduces word-lovers to the science of words in a fascinating overview of our unconscious knowledge of language. In this course, you will become familiar with the sounds, structures, meanings and history of English words.

Prerequisite: 1.0 first year course

It is the student's responsibility to check the course prerequisites and antirequisites.

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from the Department of French Studies to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

PEDAGOGICAL OBJECTIVES

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Segment words into syllables and identify stressed syllables
- Analyze words into their component parts (morphemes)
- Identify the structural composition of complex words
- Use the Oxford English Dictionary to find the history of a word or affix
- Use Google ngrams to learn about the use of a word or affix over time

COURSE MATERIALS

- Heidi Harley. 2006. *English words*. New York: Wiley-Blackwell. (available at <https://dingo.sbs.arizona.edu/~hharley/PDFs/WordsBook/>)
- Keith Denning, Brett Kessler, and William R. Leben. 2023. *English Vocabulary Elements* (third edition). Oxford: Oxford University Press. (available via Weldon website)

- An English dictionary that identifies the etymologies of words, e.g. **Merriam-Webster** (<https://www.merriam-webster.com>). The **Online Etymology Dictionary** (<http://etymonline.com>) is fun and can be useful for etymologies in a pinch; however, note that it is not as reliable as a quality published dictionary.
- We will also be using the **Oxford English Dictionary**, available via the Weldon website (<https://www.oed.com>). We will be doing some activities to show you how to make the most of the OED.
- Materials on the OWL site

METHODS OF EVALUATION

Weekly quizzes:	20%	8 best quiz scores
Mid-term exam:	20%	October
Final exam:	60%	December

NB: Students do not have the option of doing additional work to bring up their grade.

Weekly quizzes (due every Thursday)

In most weeks, you will have a quiz due by 4pm on Thursday. The quizzes will be available in the OWL quiz tool, they will be untimed, and they will be graded automatically by OWL. You will receive your score immediately and you will be able to redo each quiz as many times as you like, but your final attempt must be submitted before the quiz closes. Only your eight best quiz scores will count and the quizzes are designed so that everyone can get 100%. As a result, there are **no make-up quizzes**. You will not be allowed to make up any missed quizzes without a recommendation for academic consideration from an academic counsellor. I do not, however, recommend that you request academic consideration for a missed quiz. It is better to just drop the score of the missed quiz.

Mid-term

On Tuesday, October 24th at 9am, a test will be available to you in OWL. The test must be submitted by 4pm on Thursday, October 26th. The mid-term test will cover all course material from the start of the semester. The test will be multiple-choice and will be graded automatically by OWL. You will have 50 minutes to complete the test once you begin. You will be allowed only one attempt. You will see only one question at a time and you will not be able to go back to earlier questions. You may not discuss the test with any classmate. Your score and the questions and answers will be available to you in OWL only after the submission deadline has passed.

If you do not complete the test by the deadline and you wish to write a make-up test, you must see an academic counsellor in your home faculty to request academic consideration. For those students who receive academic consideration, the makeup test (in the same format as the regular test) will be available in OWL from 9am on Tuesday, November 7th and must be submitted by 4pm on Thursday, November 9th.

Final exam

The Office of the Registrar will schedule a synchronous exam for our class in the Fall Examination period. The exam will cover all course material from the start of the semester. The exam will be multiple-choice and will be graded automatically by OWL. You will have 120 minutes to complete the exam. You will be allowed only one attempt. You will see only one question at a time and you will not be able to go back to earlier questions. You may not consult with anyone else during the exam.

IMPORTANT DATES

September 29: National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

October 9: Thanksgiving

October 30 – November 5: Fall reading week

November 13: Last day to drop a first-term half course without academic penalty

December 8: Classes end

December 11-22: Fall Examination period

CALENDAR

* *Subject to minor modifications at any time. Please follow the announcements on OWL for any changes.*

EVE = English Vocabulary Elements

EW = English Words

Week	Lecture	Readings	Quiz
0	September 7-8	Syllabus EVE Chapter 1	N/A
1	September 11-15 WHAT IS A WORD?	EW Chapter 1	Quiz 1
2	September 18-22 HISTORY OF ENGLISH	EVE Chapter 2	Quiz 2
3	September 25-28 MORPHOLOGY: COMPLEX WORDS	EVE Chapter 3	Quiz 3
4	October 2-6 ALLOMORPHY	EVE Chapter 4	Quiz 4
5	October 10-13 PHONOLOGICAL WORDS	EW Chapter 3	Quiz 5
6	October 16-20 WHERE DO WORDS COME FROM?	EW Chapter 4	Quiz 6
7	October 23-27 MIDTERM TEST	No reading	N/A
READING WEEK			
8	November 6-10 LEXICAL SEMANTICS	EW Chapter 7	Quiz 7
9	November 13-17 CHILDREN LEARNING WORDS	EW Chapter 8	Quiz 8
10	November 20-25 PRAGMATICS	TBA	Quiz 9
11	November 27-December 1 DOING BAD THINGS WITH WORDS	TBA	Quiz 10
12	December 4-8 WORDS IN THE DIGITAL AGE	TBA	Quiz 11

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation for Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities work with Accessible Education (formerly SSD) which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing.

The accommodation policy can be found here:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic%20Accommodation_disabilities.pdf

Accommodation for Medical Illness

A student seeking academic accommodation for any work worth **less than 10%** must contact the instructor or follow the appropriate Department or course specific instructions provided on the course outline.

A student seeking academic accommodation for any work worth **more than 10%** must submit documentation, as soon as possible, to the appropriate Dean's office (the Office of the Dean of the student's Faculty of registration/home Faculty) together with a request for relief specifying the nature of the accommodation being requested.

The accommodation policy can be found here:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf

Student Medical Certificate (SMC):

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf

Religious Accommodation

Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays, and should give reasonable notice in writing, prior to the holiday, to the Instructor and an Academic Counsellor if their course requirements will be affected by a religious observance. Additional information is given in the Western Multicultural Calendar:

<https://multiculturalcalendar.com/ecal/index.php?s=c-univwo>

EVALUATION OF ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE

At least three days prior to the deadline for withdrawal from a course without academic penalty, students will receive assessment of work accounting for at least 15% of their final grade. For 3000- or 4000-level courses in which such a graded assessment is impracticable, the instructor(s) must obtain an exemption from this policy from the Dean and this exemption must be noted on the corresponding course syllabus. In rare instances and at the Dean's discretion, other courses could receive a similar exemption, which also must be noted in the course syllabus.

COURSE ASSIGNMENT

The last day of scheduled classes in any course will be the last day on which course assignments will be accepted for credit in a course. Instructors will be required to return assignments to students as promptly as possible with reasonable explanations of the instructor's assessment of the assignment.

ACADEMIC OFFENCES

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

SUPPORT SERVICES

Registrar Services <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>

Academic support and Engagement: <http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/>

Health and Wellness: <https://www.uwo.ca/health/>

Student Support and Case Management: https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/index.html
Services provided by the USC <http://westernusc.ca/services/>

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western <https://www.uwo.ca/health/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

- You can book a mental health appointment by calling 519-661-3030
- Good2Talk: Call 1-866-925-5454 or text GOOD2TALKON to 686868 for 24 hr confidential support services for postsecondary students in Ontario.
- Additional crisis support services are at uwo.ca/health/crisis.html

Statement on gender-based and sexual violence

Western [is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence](#) and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have experienced gender-based or sexual violence (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts, [here](#). To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact support@uwo.ca.

Statement on Plagiarism, Cheating and other Scholastic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a scholastic offence in the Academic Policies available on the University Secretariat website: “Undergraduate Students - Scholastic Discipline”,
https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/academic_policies/rights_responsibilities.html

Important Academic Information for Students Taking Courses in the Department of French Studies

http://www.uwo.ca/french/undergraduate/counselling/academic_information/index.html