

# ***ENG 570: TRENDS AND TOPICS IN LINGUISTICS***

## ***— The Grammar of Non-Finite Root Constructions —***

*Linguistics Section, Department of English Studies, University of Cyprus*

Spring Semester 2007: Tuesday & Friday, 16.30-18.00 – Room A 108

**[www.punksinscience.org/kleanthes/courses/UCY07S/TTL](http://www.punksinscience.org/kleanthes/courses/UCY07S/TTL)**

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### **DESCRIPTION**

As the subtitle of this course suggests, we will investigate the grammatical properties of non-finite clauses used in root or matrix, i.e. non-embedded, contexts. A primary example would be the so-called root infinitive (e.g., from *Mad* magazine: “What, me worry?”), but similar observations may be applied to participial/gerundive clauses (“Him worrying?”), and quite possibly to subjunctives in languages that lack infinitives (such as non-embedded *na*-clauses in Modern Greek). In the course of the semester, we will look at the syntax and semantics involved, consider the pragmatics where relevant, and take into consideration adult use across languages (which have not received much attention in the literature) as well as the rather well-studied child phenomenon that has been dubbed the root (or optional) infinitive stage.

### **ASSESSMENT**

Regular attendance is strongly suggested! Besides the class lectures, there will be:

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|---------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. one class presentation | <i>30% of the final grade</i> | May 8 (all presentations) |
| 2. one research abstract  | <i>20% of the final grade</i> | March 30 (draft) / May 1  |
| 3. one term paper         | <i>50% of the final grade</i> | May 24 (final version!!!) |

Ideally your class presentation will connect to your research abstract and your term paper. The abstract may not exceed 1,000 words and should be of such quality that it could be submitted to a conference. The term paper should be around 5–7,000 words in length and constitute either original research or a literature review. We will discuss further details soon.

### **READING**

There are two readers with all the major articles we’ll read, one on syntax and one on acquisition, available from me for CY£ 10 total. Every student should have a copy. Further references and course handouts might be distributed in class; see also the course homepage.