

ENG 235: MORPHOLOGY AND SYNTAX OF ENGLISH

Linguistics Section, Department of English Studies, University of Cyprus

Spring Semester 2008: Tuesdays & Fridays, 9.00–10.30 — Room A 010

www.punksinscience.org/kleanthes/courses/UCY08S/MASOE

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DESCRIPTION

The course examines the internal structure of words and the rules by which word formation takes place and provides an introductory study of English grammar from a formal perspective. It examines the relationship between syntax and morphology by considering the effects that some morphological processes have on syntax. It also considers the phrase structure properties of English in terms of X-bar theory, explores the different properties of main and embedded clauses, and discusses movement operations, such as *yes/no*- and *wh*-questions, passives and raising constructions. And then some...

ASSESSMENT

Regular attendance is strongly advised! The evaluation for this course breaks down as follows:

1. one **final exam** covering the syntax material (in-class, open-book) (50%)
2. one **mid-term exam** on morphology issues (in-class, no open book) (20%)
3. regular **homework exercises** (home-prepared, best three will count) (30%)
4. presence and preferably **participation** in class (= grade adjustment) (±x...)

The **mid-term exam** will be held in class. It will cover the **morphology part of the semester** in a straightforward manner, like the homework exercises. The **final exam** will also be held in class and consist of **exercises as practiced** in class. It will deal with the covered material contained in the textbook, which you can also have on you for the exam. **Only the final is thus an open-book exam.**

*However, in light of recent copyright infringement issues in Cyprus, you may only use a commercial copy of the book — for legal reasons, then, **photocopied materials are not permitted at the exams.***

Throughout the semester, I will assign particular **exercises**. You may work them out, write them down, and hand them in, or you may just think about them at home. Some of them will be discussed in class. However, **you must hand in at least three written homework** which will count (best of 3).

NB: *There's also a small-paper option to improve your grade; details will be discussed in class.*

Despite bad experiences in the past, I will still **not take attendance**. You will be punished enough for not attending when you stop being able to follow the class. In general I will follow the general guideline, based on taking attendance sporadically if necessary: **For every class you miss unexcused, I will take off one half-point grade increment from your final grade.** And be on time...

READING

In the past I used to say: **I can't stress enough how important it will be that you read at home!** However, experience has shown that students don't read anything beyond the absolute necessary, if they read at all. As a consequence **I did not put any books on hold at the library.** If anyone is interested in reading beyond the assigned texts, please consult me and I can give you pointers, or do the research on relevant sources yourself. This means your readings are kept at a bare minimum, so: **Make sure you do all your minimal readings and learn how to understand what you read!**

All classes will follow the same pattern:

- (i) I will **assign** you readings,
- (ii) which you will **read** for next class,
- (iii) when I will **lecture** on that material.

This also means:

NB: I can't stress enough how important it will be for this course that you attend all classes!

Classes will be crucial and equally crucial will be that you understand everything we do. I will not always cover all the material; we will find our pace in a few classes. **On the syllabus you will find your reading assignments.** I will assign relevant exercises from our textbook as we go along.

There is **one required textbook** on syntax of which every student must have his/her own copy! (Moufflon Bookshop has enough copies, but they will return those not purchased **by February 1.**)

**Carnie, Andrew. 2007. *Syntax: A Generative Introduction*, 2nd edn. Oxford: Blackwell.
[you can get more material from here: <http://www.blackwellpublishing.com/carnie>]**

There are also some short **supplementary texts** (handed out today; downloadable from website):

Andrew McIntyre. 2000. 'English Morphology'. Manuscript, University of Leipzig.

Andrew McIntyre. 2003. 'Fundamentals of English Syntax'. Manuscript, University of Leipzig.

You may also find it interesting to browse through **this encyclopedia** in the library:

**Keith Brown and Anne Anderson (eds.). 2006. *Encyclopedia of Language and Linguistics*.
Amsterdam: Elsevier. [second edition, P29.E5 2006 – v.1–14]**

PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is a serious offence! Please make yourself familiar with the rules (again) if you're not quite sure. Basically, it means that you are not allowed to copy from your notes or classmates during in-class exams. But it also covers more: You cannot simply copy and paste text you find on the internet, in books, or from other sources (including your classmates) for your written work! **If I detect cheating or plagiarism in any way, I will report you to the Board of the Department of English Studies — as a consequence, you automatically fail this course and face more severe punishment which can even lead to expulsion from university.** So, be honest and work honest.

In today's class I will pass out an elaborate document on plagiarism, which might look familiar.