

Morehead State University
Department of English
English 205: Language: Culture and Mind
Fall 2009

Time: MWF 12:40-1:40
Place: BCB 401
Email: t.irons@moreheadstate.edu

Teacher: Professor Terry Irons
Office: BCB 101C
Phone: 783-5164

Course Description

Introduction to the study of human language. Topics include language and culture, language and the mind, meaning and communication, the acquisition of language, and sound and writing systems. *This course satisfies area studies-humanities for general education.*

Course Objectives

Students who have successfully completed ENG 205 will

1. be able to make informed decisions about language-related issues in society;
2. have a general knowledge of how language is represented in the mind, how it is acquired, and whether it is specific to humans;
3. have a general knowledge of the relationship between language and culture, including how language shapes and is shaped by social institutions;
4. have a better understanding of cultural diversity as manifested by language diversity;
5. become acquainted with political, social, and economic aspects of language and language use;
6. appreciate language diversity and the distinction between linguistic and social attitudes toward dialects and accents.

Required Textbook

Napoli, Donna Jo. *Language Matters*. Oxford: Oxford UP: 2003.
Additional required readings posted on Blackboard.

Course Requirements

1.	First Test	15%
2.	Second Test	15%
3.	Final Test	20%
4.	Homework (reading questions, presentation, etc.)	45%
5.	Attendance and Participation	5%

Grading Scale: 90-100% = A, 80-90% = B, 70-80% = C, 60-70% = D, <60% = E

General Education Goals

This course addresses the following goals of General Education at MSU:

1. To think and reason analytically. Students will be encouraged to dissect the arguments and assumptions behind language-related opinions and learn to read and listen critically.
2. To communicate accurately and effectively. Students will write and present persuasive pieces on various language issues, conveying their own conclusions as well as those of others.
3. To make informed and ethical value decisions. Students will discuss and defend positions on issues like bilingualism in society and the schools, whether language determines thought, etc.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

In compliance with the ADA, all students with a documented disability are entitled to reasonable accommodations and services to support their academic success and safety. Though a request for services may be made at any time, services are best applied when they are requested at or before the start of the semester. To receive accommodations and services the student should immediately contact the Disability Services Coordinator in the Office of Academic and Career Services, 223 Allie Young Hall, 606-783-5188, www.moreheadstate.edu/acs/.

Campus Safety Statement

Emergency response information will be discussed in class. Students should familiarize themselves with the nearest exit routes in the event evacuation becomes necessary. You should notify your instructor at the beginning of the semester if you have special needs or will require assistance during an emergency evacuation. Students should familiarize themselves with emergency response protocols at <http://www.moreheadstate.edu/emergency>

Academic Honesty

All students at Morehead State University are required to abide by accepted standards of academic honesty. Academic honesty includes doing one's own work, giving credit for the work of others, and using resources appropriately. Failure to abide by standards of academic honesty may result in a zero on an assignment, failure of the course, referral to the Dean of Students, and possible dismissal from the University. Information related to the procedures for handling academic dishonesty can be found in Appendix A of the student handbook at the following location:

<http://www.moreheadstate.edu/files/units/dsl/eaglehandbook/studenthandbook2008-09.pdf>