

ENGL 3132-090 Introduction to Contemporary American English (call # 25305)  
Spring 2016 UNC Charlotte MW 12:30–01:45, Colvard 3140

**Instructor:** Ralf Thiede, assoc. prof. Applied Linguistics  
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**Office hrs.:** MW 11:00 am - noon, W 04:00 - 05:00 pm  
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**http:** //www.routledge.com/textbooks/9780415774680/

## SYLLABUS

**Texts:** Behrens, Susan J., and Judith A. Parker. 2010. *Language in the real world: An introduction to linguistics*. Abingdon, UK: Routledge. ISBN 978-0-415-77468-0.

...a current grammar handbook for your personal review, and a good dictionary

**Goals:** The course is set up to comply with competency requirements for teachers. It emphasizes working familiarity in the following areas:

*discourse analysis, pragmatics:* social, forensic, medical, community  
*lexicon/semantics:* translation, identity, communication systems  
*morphology:* dictionaries, disorders, acquisition  
*neurolinguistics/psycholinguistics:* disorders, development  
*phonetics/phonology:* variation, pronunciation, acquisition  
*sociolinguistics:* identity, power, variation, alignment, gender  
*syntax*  
*history and variation*

**Policies:** Customarily, three absences are allowed for whatever reason. And you can petition for up to two additional absences per academic year for religious holidays you may observe, as long as you file that information with the Dean of Students by the census date (Jan 25). After add/drop (Jan 21), each absence after the allowable maximum is penalized by reducing your final grade by half a letter grade unless I receive a request to accommodate from either the Dean of Students or from the Office of Disability Services on your behalf. I use interfaithcalendar.org to avoid exams on conspicuous holidays, but some conflicts are unavoidable.

From past experience, I recommend that you try not to miss any classes. You are welcome to have someone take notes for you or tape a class session for you if you must be absent. Most importantly, I want you to feel free to tell me at any point if you should feel yourself slipping behind. Feel free also to ask for clarification in the classroom, or if you would like for me to go over something again. One warning: The fact that all the materials are on Moodle does not mean that the class sessions are redundant. You will need the class discussions to help you understand all this stuff.

The department has a *multicultural* policy (<http://english.uncc.edu/diversity-statement>), and actually any linguistics class worth its salt has one by default. There is no meaningful way of discussing contemporary American English without considering varieties of the language and of communication styles. Please contribute, and ask for, comparative data from dialects, languages, and cultures.

The campus and the department share a policy about *academic integrity* (Undergraduate Catalog 2015-16, p. 51), explained at <http://legal.uncc.edu/policies/up-407#III>. Please know that I check submitted work for plagiarism and am able to identify it even if clears a plagiarism checking site such as turnitin.com. Do not cross that line.

## Syllabus

- Prepare yourself prior to each class by taking the self-check exam for the assigned chapters at <http://cw.routledge.com/textbooks/9780415774680/>
- Additional materials will be posted on the Moodle site; check before each session.

	<b>Readings</b>	<b>Topics</b>
Jan.	11	Introduction to the Study of Language: theory vs. model, structure vs. function, prescription vs. description
	13	Basic grammar review I
	18	<i>[Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day]</i>
	20	Basic grammar review II
	25	Basic grammar review III
	27 chs. 1, 2	Language variation, speech communities, dialect attitudes
Feb.	01 ch. 3	Applications of Phonology
	03 ch. 4	<b>Test 1;</b> Dictionaries and the philosophies behind them
	08 ch. 5	<b>Test 2;</b> The multilingual world
	10 ch. 6	Technical challenges of machine translation
	15 chs. 7, 8	Language and Power I
	17 chs. 9, 10	Language and Power II; Forensic Linguistics
	22 ch. 11	<b>Test 3;</b> Language acquisition
	24 ch. 12	<b>Test 4;</b> Sign languages
	29 ch. 13	Animal communication systems
Mar.	02	<b>Midterm</b>
	07	<i>[Spring Recess – No Classes]</i>
	09	<i>[Spring Recess – No Classes]</i>
	14 ch. 14	Diagnosis/treatment of communication disorders
	16 ch. 15	<b>Test 5;</b> Discourse competence: Narratives
	21 ch. 16	Neurolinguistics
	23 ch. 17	Language and Autism
	28	<b>Test 6;</b> <i>Workshops and Presentations</i>
	30	<i>Workshops and Presentations</i>
April	04	<i>Workshops and Presentations</i>
	06	<i>Workshops and Presentations</i>
	11	<b>Research paper due;</b> <i>Workshops and Presentations</i>
	13	<i>Workshops and Presentations</i>
	18	<i>Workshops and Presentations</i>
	20	<i>Workshops and Presentations</i>
	25	<i>Workshops and Presentations</i>
	27	Review for the Final Examination
May	02	Review for the Final Examination
	11	<b>Final Exam 11:00 am – 01:30 pm</b>

**Grades:** Your contributions will be weighted as follows:

1. research paper (25%)
2. final exam (20%)
3. midterm (20%)
4. 6 tests (lowest grade dropped) (20%)
5. Presentation with handout and PowerPoint (15%)

**Research paper:** You will be asked to prepare a short paper (about 5 pp.) on a particular grammatical concept (separate handout). Grade is determined by how complete, accurate, and *understood* (as opposed to copied ☺) your paper is.

**Presentation:** You will be asked to deliver a 5-minute PowerPoint presentation with handout to the class. There will be a sign-up sheet with topics.

**Midterm:** There will be an extended examination with written answers for the midterm.

**Final exam:** This will be a composite of questions similar to those on the 6 tests, so do keep your answer sheets for review and practice.