

Classics 185 – Origins and Nature of English Vocabulary
Summer 2018

Class Meetings

TR 10:45 AM-12:00 PM Public Affairs 1264

Instructor

Benjamin Niedzielski (bniedzie@ucla.edu)

Office hours: TR 12-1 PM in Dodd 2, or by appointment.

Texts

Required: *The Oxford Guide to Etymology*, by Philip Durkin (2011, paperback edition)

Optional: *English Words from Latin and Greek Elements* Second Edition, by Donald M. Ayers (1986, paperback edition)

Grading

Preparation, and Participation	10%
Quizzes (3 20-30 minute quizzes)	30%
Homework (3 assignments)	20%
Course Project (due Friday, August 3 at 5:00 PM)	20%
Final Exam (75 minutes, cumulative, Thursday, August 2)	20%

N.b. There will be no make-ups for quizzes or exams!

Class Description

Classics 185 is an intensive, 6-week course on vocabulary, particularly in the English language. We will cover the basic principles of historical and Indo-European linguistics, the origins of the English language, common Latin and Greek roots used in English vocabulary, the creation of new words in Modern English, and how and why words change meaning. This course fulfills the UCLA Philosophical and Linguistic Analysis GE requirement. After completing Classics 185, students are equipped to better understand language in general and to apply concepts and tools introduced in the course to their own fields and to other languages.

Classics 185 as a “Hybrid” Course

This course is a “hybrid” course – that is, there are fewer hours in class and there is an online component. A typical 5 unit course meets for 4-6 hours per week during the summer; our course meets for only 2.5 hours per week. This means that you will have additional work to do online to account for this difference. The good news is this gives you much greater flexibility in when to complete your work.

For this course, you will be expected to watch a number of videos on CCLE instead of having a formal lecture. These videos, combined with assigned readings, are vital for your understanding of course material. We will dedicate the first portion of each class to reviewing this online material, but this will not be a full lecture. You *will not* be able to keep up without using these online materials. Be sure to watch the videos, complete course readings, and bring any questions you have to class.

Attendance, Participation, and the No Makeup Policy

The pace of this course, combined with its hybrid nature, demands *mandatory* attendance at every class. Missing even a single day is roughly equivalent to missing a full week during the academic year. This can have a hugely negative effect on a student's progress and *will* adversely affect students' grades. Additionally, *no makeup assignments* will be offered, except in cases of documented emergencies. I know that the pace of the class is intense, so please let me know if you are having problems, and I will try to make arrangements to help you!

Students should participate actively in class, being prepared to answer questions when called upon. A large portion of class time will be devoted to a discussion of the readings, videos, and other materials brought in by the instructor.

I ask that students not use cell phones, tablets, and laptops during class time, as they will distract not only you, but those around you too.

Quizzes and Final

Students will take three 20-30 minute quizzes and a 75 minute cumulative final exam throughout the course. Each of these assessments will ask students to break English words into common Latin and Greek components and define the words, based on Latin and Greek root lists distributed in advance. Students will also have to demonstrate an understanding of material from the course videos and readings, as well as the ability to apply it to relevant data.

Homework

Students will complete three homework assignments, taking the form of a problem set. Each assignment will give students the opportunity to practice using online tools and to apply material learned in class to real data. These assignments are to be completed individually, without consulting others in the class, unless otherwise stated.

Course Project

The course will culminate in a project that encourages students to apply course materials to words in an area of interest. Students will choose a narrow field (e.g., car names), and examine words that have been created in this field. Using what they have learned in the course, they will produce a 4-5 page (double-spaced) writeup discussing this data and patterns they observe in it. Students will be graded on the quality of their analysis, their writing, and their creativity.

Academic Misconduct

Plagiarism or the giving or receiving of unauthorized assistance on examinations will not be tolerated. For the university's policies on cheating, see the website for the Dean of Students: <http://www.deanofstudents.ucla.edu/Academic-Integrity>.

Accessible Education

The Center for Accessible Education (CAE) coordinates accommodations and services for all UCLA students who are eligible. If you have a disability for which you wish to request accommodations and have not contacted CAE, please do so as soon as possible. Their office is located in A255 Murphy Hall; their phone number is (310) 825-1501. Information about their services can be found at <http://www.cae.ucla.edu/>.

Weekly Syllabus

All assignments are subject to change. Homework is listed on the class **on which it is due**. All readings not in Durkin, as well as all required videos, will be posted to the course website.

Week 1

Tue 6/26

In Class: Introduction to the course. The principles of historical linguistics.

Thu 6/28

Homework: Durkin: pp. 1-33 (= Chapter 1, "Introduction").
Watkins: pp. vi-xxxiv (= preface, "Indo-European and the Indo-Europeans").
Fortson pp. 1-14 (= Chapter 1, "Introduction: The Comparative Method and the Indo-European Family")
Week 1 videos

In Class: Indo-European languages. Language development and death.
Development of Vocabulary.

Week 2

Tue 7/3

Homework: Durkin: pp. 34-60
Week 2 videos

In Class: Phonology and Morphology. Parsing words.

Thu 7/5

Homework: Durkin pp. 68–83
Carstairs-McCarthy pp. 16-27 ("Parts of a Word")

In Class: **Quiz 1**
The lifespan, spread, and death of words.

Week 3

Tue 7/10

Homework: **Homework 1 due**
Hogg-Denison pp. 1-42 ("History of English")
OPTIONAL: Hughes pp. 73-100 (The "Celts and Anglo-Saxons")
Week 3 videos

In Class: History of English. Comparison of Old, Middle, and Modern English.

Thu 7/12

Homework: Hughes pp. 109-125 ("Norman Elite and the New Language of Power")
Durkin pp. 132-154 (Ch.5, "Lexical Borrowing")

In Class: Varieties of English. English Lexicon.

Week 4

Tue 7/17

Homework: Algeo pp. 141-144 ("Orthography of Early Modern English")
Barber pp. 185-199 ("Early Modern English")
Week 4 videos

In Class: **Quiz 2**
History of English Vocabulary.

Thu 7/19

Homework: **Homework 2 due**
Durkin pp. 157-173 (sections §6.2–6.8)

In Class: More history of English Vocabulary.

Week 5

Tue 7/24

Homework: Campbell pp. 254-273 ("Semantic Change and Lexical Change")
Week 5 videos

In Class: Semantic and lexical change.

Thu 7/26

Homework: Durkin pp. 202-208 (sections §7.4.5–7.5)
Campbell pp. 273-279 ("Semantic Change and Lexical Change")

In Class: **Quiz 3**
Socialelects, Dialects, and Register.

Week 6

Tue 7/31

Homework: **Homework 3 due**
Wardhaugh pp. 43-54 ("Dialect and Sociolect")
Allan-Burridge pp. 68-78 ("Slang and Cussing")
Week 6 videos

In Class: Review and Conclusions

Thu 8/2

In Class: **Final Exam**

Fri 8/3

Homework: **Final Project due by 5 PM**