

**Classics 185 – Origins and Nature of English Vocabulary**  
Summer 2019

**Class Meetings**

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

**Instructor**

Benjamin Niedzielski ([bniedzie@ucla.edu](mailto:bniedzie@ucla.edu))

Office hours: TR 9:30-10:30 AM in Dodd 2, or by appointment.

**Textbooks**

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

**Grading**

Preparation and Participation	10%
Quizzes (7 20-minute quizzes, lowest score dropped)	30%
Homework (3 assignments)	20%
Course Project (due <b>Friday, August 2 at 5:00 PM</b> )	20%
Final Exam (75 minutes, cumulative, <b>Thursday, August 1</b> )	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 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 will have improved their vocabulary, be better understand language in general, and be able 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, supplemented with a mandatory online component. The good news is that this gives you much greater flexibility about when to complete your work. The online aspects of this course are outlined below:

- Online videos – Part of each class will be dedicated to covering new material, but it is not possible to cover all necessary content during this time. After each lecture’s introduction to a new topic, you will be required to watch a series of related online lecture videos (ca. 90 minutes per week). You are responsible for all material in these videos, not just what we have covered in class.
- Online quizzes – You will be expected to take 7 20-minute online quizzes outside of class on CCLE using the Respondus Lockdown Browser. Respondus is used to increase the security of online testing in CCLE; those who do not wish to take the quizzes online may request an appointment to take a pen-and-paper version.

## **Attendance, Preparation, 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 your progress and *will* adversely affect your grade.

Please complete all assignments (readings, videos, quizzes, etc.) before lecture. Your preparation and participation grade will be based on your engagement with the online materials and (equally importantly) your ability to discuss them intelligently in class. I do not expect you to understand perfectly all you have seen or read, but you should be able to coherently explain what you do and do not understand.

As many of the best tools for English etymology are online, you are permitted to responsibly use laptops and mobile devices during lecture. However, since devices can distract not only you but those around you, please respect both your peers and me by using them only for class purposes.

Finally, *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!

## **Quizzes**

You will take seven 20-minute quizzes throughout the course. Each of these assessments will ask you to work with common Latin and Greek components that build English words, based on Latin and Greek root lists distributed in advance. You 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. All quizzes will focus on what has been covered since the last quiz, but you are responsible for all material covered up until the quiz. These quizzes will be taken online using the Respondus lockdown browser; we will discuss the process for setting this up before the first quiz. They should be taken before the class on which they are due.

## **Final**

You will take a 75-minute in-class final exam on the final class of the quarter. The format will be similar to that of the quizzes, and the exam will be cumulative.

## **Homework**

You will complete three homework assignments, taking the form of a problem set. Each assignment will give you 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 asks you to apply course materials to words in an area of interest. You will choose a narrow field (e.g., car names), and examine words that have been created in this field. Using what you have learned in the course, you will produce a 4-5 page (double-spaced) writeup discussing this data and patterns you observe in it. This project will be completed progressively throughout the term. Throughout the term, you will need to

submit your topic, data, outline, and final submission with deadlines as outlined in the syllabus below. You will be graded on the quality of your analysis, writing, and creativity.

### **Academic Misconduct**

Plagiarism or the giving or receiving of unauthorized assistance on examinations will not be tolerated. This includes (but is not limited to) making use of unauthorized resources during quizzes and exams, not properly citing sources within papers, and searching online for the answers to homework problems. 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 and required videos will be posted to the course website.

### Week 1

Tue 6/25

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

Thu 6/27

Homework: Watkins pp. 2007-2015 ("Indo-European and the Indo-Europeans").  
Fortson pp. 1-14 ("Introduction: The Comparative Method and the Indo-European Family")

In Class: Indo-European languages. Language development. Development of vocabulary.

### Week 2

Tue 7/2

Homework: Videos (set 1)

#### **Quiz 1**

In Class: Phonology and Morphology. Parsing words.

Thu 7/4

**NO CLASS (Fourth of July)**

### Week 3

Tue 7/9

Homework: Introduction to Phonology (handout and video)  
Carstairs-McCarthy pp. 16-27 ("Parts of a Word")  
Videos (set 2)

#### **Quiz 2**

#### **Homework 1 due**

In Class: Review. History of English.

Thu 7/11

Homework: Videos (set 3)

#### **Quiz 3**

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

#### **Week 4**

Tue 7/16

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

#### **Quiz 4**

#### **Project Topic due**

In Class: History of English Vocabulary.

Thu 7/18

Homework: Videos (set 5)

#### **Quiz 5**

#### **Homework 2 due**

In Class: Semantic and lexical change.

#### **Week 5**

Tue 7/23

Homework: Campbell pp. 254-273 ("Semantic Change and Lexical Change")  
Videos (set 6)

#### **Quiz 6**

#### **Data for Project due**

In Class: More semantic and lexical change.

Thu 7/25

Homework: Campbell pp. 273-279 ("Semantic Change and Lexical Change")  
Videos (set 7)

#### **Quiz 7**

#### **Peer Suggestions for Project due**

In Class: Sociolects, Dialects, and Register.

#### **Week 6**

Tue 7/30

Homework: Videos (set 8)

#### **Homework 3 due**

#### **Project Outline due**

In Class: Review and Conclusions.

Thu 8/1

In Class: **Final Exam**

Fri 8/2

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