

Classics 185 – Origins and Nature of English Vocabulary
Summer 2020

Class Meetings (Mandatory)

TR 10:45 AM-12:00 PM PDT Online (Zoom link on CCLE)

Instructor

Benjamin Niedzielski (bniedzie@ucla.edu)

Office hours: TR 12:00-1:00 PM PDT, or by appointment (Zoom link on CCLE).

Supervising Instructor

Dr. Samuel Beckelhymer (sbeckelhymer@humnet.ucla.edu)

Textbooks

Optional: *English Words from Latin and Greek Elements* Second Edition, by Donald M. Ayers

Grading

Preparation and Participation	10%
Quizzes (7 30-minute quizzes, lowest score dropped)	30%
Homework (3 assignments)	20%
Course Project (due Friday, July 31 at 5:00 PM)	20%
Final Exam (75 minutes, cumulative, Thursday, July 30)	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, covering the following:

- The 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 (including slang)
- 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, better understand language in general, and be able to apply concepts introduced in the course to their own fields and to other languages.

Classics 185 as a Remote Course

Classics 185 is a remote course – that is, there are no meetings in a classroom on campus. However, there are two mandatory sessions over Zoom per week.

I am aware that online learning comes with many challenges, especially in these uncertain times. While we cannot replicate a traditional classroom experience, my goal is to give you the opportunity to work closely with your peers and me, both in and out of class time. If you will be in a different time zone or expect internet connectivity issues, please let me know as soon as possible. Finally, if you are struggling for any reason, please reach out so I can help.

Time Commitment

The time commitment for this course is the same as a traditional upper division course. Every student's background is different, but it would not be unreasonable to expect an average commitment of 15 hours per week:

- Class: 2.5 hrs
- Lecture Videos/Readings/Review: 3 hrs
- Root List Memorization: 3.5 hrs (=30 min/day)
- Quizzes/Assignments/Final Project: 6 hrs

Online Materials

Some online materials you will be expected to engage with outside of class are as follows:

- Online videos – After each class' introduction to a new topic, you will be required to watch a series of related online lecture videos (ca. 60 minutes per class). You are responsible for all material in these videos.
- Online discussion – You will be expected to ask questions and practice class concepts together with your peers outside of class through discussion forums.
- Online quizzes – You will be expected to take 7 30-minute online quizzes outside of class on CCLE using the Respondus Lockdown Browser. Students who do not want to or are unable to use Respondus will be able to make alternative arrangements.

Attendance, Preparation, Participation, and the No Makeup Policy

The reduced face-to-face time of this class demands attendance at every meeting. 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 (videos, quizzes, discussion posts, etc.) before class. This part of your grade will be based on your engagement with these 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.

Attending class via computer can lead to many distractions. Much of class will involve discussion, and meetings will not be recorded, so please use devices only to engage with course materials during class time.

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 30-minute quizzes throughout the course. In each you will:

- Work with common Latin and Greek components that build English words (Latin and Greek root lists distributed in advance)
- Demonstrate an understanding of material from the course videos and readings
- Apply course material 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, unless you make other arrangements with the instructor. They should be taken before the class on which they are due.

Final

You will take a 75-minute online final exam at the end of the quarter during scheduled class time. The format will be similar to that of the quizzes, and the exam will be cumulative.

Homework

You will complete three problem sets on course material. Each will give you the opportunity to practice using online tools and to apply material learned in class to real data. Some parts of these assignments are to be done individually, while others encourage or require collaboration.

Course Project

The course will culminate in a project that asks you to apply what you have learned to words in any 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. By various deadlines, 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 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 6/23

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

Thu 6/25

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 6/30

Homework: Videos (set 1)

Quiz 1

In Class: Phonetics and Phonology.

Thu 7/2

Homework: Videos (set 2)
Introduction to Phonology (handout)
Sounds of English Worksheet

In Class: Morphology. Parsing words.

Week 3

Tue 7/7

Homework: Carstairs-McCarthy pp. 16-27 ("Parts of a Word")
Videos (set 3)

Quiz 2

Homework 1 due

In Class: Review. History of English.

Thu 7/9

Homework: Videos (set 4)

Quiz 3

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

Week 4

Tue 7/14

Homework: Algeo pp. 141-144 ("Orthography of Early Modern English")
Barber pp. 185-199 ("Early Modern English")
Videos (set 5)

Quiz 4

Project Topic due

In Class: History of English Vocabulary.

Thu 7/16

Homework: Videos (set 6)

Quiz 5

Homework 2 due

In Class: Semantic and lexical change.

Week 5

Tue 7/21

Homework: Campbell pp. 254-273 ("Semantic Change and Lexical Change")
Videos (set 7)

Quiz 6

Data for Project due

In Class: More semantic and lexical change. Slang.

Thu 7/23

Homework: Campbell pp. 273-279 ("Semantic Change and Lexical Change")
Videos (set 8)

Quiz 7

Peer Suggestions for Project due

In Class: More Slang. Sociolects, Dialects, and Register.

Week 6

Tue 7/28

Homework: Videos (set 9)

Homework 3 due

Project Outline due

In Class: Review and Conclusions.

Thu 7/30

In Class: **Final Exam**

Fri 7/31

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