

University of Arkansas – Fort Smith

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General Syllabus

ENGL 3503 Languages of the World

Credit Hours: 3 Lecture Hours: 3 Laboratory Hours: 0

Prerequisites: ENGL1203 Composition I or ENGL 1233 Honors Composition or consent of department head

Effective Catalog: 2019-2020

I. Course Information:

A. Catalog Description

Study of language and its classification, development, and structural aspects.

B. Additional Information

This course looks at how languages are classified from a genetic and structural point of view. Structural aspects of the languages of the world are then surveyed in more detail. Students will also learn about and discuss the development of language as a human form of communication, and how it has evolved into the current written and oral codes.

II. Student Learning Outcomes

A. Subject Matter

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Identify the characteristics that govern all languages and make them such.
2. Explain the basic structure of languages in terms of their sounds and organization into words, phrases, and sentences.
3. Identify the characteristics of various language classifications.

B. University Learning Outcomes (ULOs)

This course enhances student abilities in the following areas:

Analytical Skills

Critical Thinking Skills: Students will identify problems/issues and develop solutions/analysis. Students will analyze a variety of texts for their rhetorical and/or literary features, as well as analyze the rhetorical situation to which the texts they produce respond.

Communication Skills (written and oral)

Students will communicate proficiently. Students will practice communication skills through discussions, presentations, and a variety of required written assignments.

Ethical Decision Making

Students will model ethical decision-making processes. Students will practice critical response to the writing of others, responsible use of research materials and intellectual property, and the ethical use of persuasion.

Global & Cultural Perspectives

Students will reflect upon cultural differences and their implications for interacting with people from cultures other than their own. Students will analyze the rhetorical situation, produce texts for a variety of audiences, and avoid the use of biased language.

III. Major Course Topics

- A. Characteristics of language
- B. Language as a human characteristic
- C. Language and the brain
- D. Language classifications
- E. Sound system of languages
- F. Word formation
- G. Organization in phrases and sentences
- H. Making meaning
- I. How languages change
- J. Pragmatics