Administrative Unit: Humanities Department

Course Prefix and Number: ENGL 311

Course Title: Descriptive Grammar of the English Language

Number of Credit Hours: 3
Lecture Hours: 3
Laboratory Hours: 0

Catalog Description: Study of the grammar (sounds, structures, sentences, and dialects) of American English.

Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): ENGL 112; junior standing or instructor’s permission.

Text(s): Several suitable grammar texts are available for this course. The texts listed below represent samples of several suitable texts:


Course Objectives:
• To explore the general principles and terminology of Linguistics.
• To explore the grammar of the English language, using these principles and terms, with special attention to modern American English.

Measurable Learning Outcomes:
• Demonstrate a knowledge of the difference between prescriptive and descriptive grammar.
• Define and apply the terminology of English Linguistics.
• Recognize and employ the elements of English phonology.
• Demonstrate familiarity with the elements of English morphology.
• Demonstrate rudimentary knowledge of transformational grammar.
• Define and differentiate the elements of English parts of speech.
• Notate English phrase structures and sentences of increasing complexity.
• Demonstrate an awareness of linguistic diversity.

Topical Outline (major areas of coverage): English phonology
• English morphology
• English syntax
• Transformational grammar (brief introduction)
• English socio-linguistics

Recommended maximum class size for this course: 30
Library Resources: Online databases are available at http://www.ccis.edu/offices/library/resources.asp. You may access them from off-campus using your eServices login and password when prompted.

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Date: January 06, 2005

NOTE: The intention of the master syllabus is to provide an outline of the contents of this course, as specified by the faculty of Columbia College, regardless of who teaches the course, when it is taught or where it is taught. Faculty members teaching this course for Columbia College are expected to facilitate learning pursuant to the course objectives and cover the subjects listed in the topical outline. However, instructors are also encouraged to cover additional topics of interest so long as those topics are relevant to the course’s subject. The master syllabus is, therefore, prescriptive in nature but also allows for a diversity of individual approaches to course material.

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