

**Writing 2550A (Fall 2024)**  
**The English Language for Writers****Course description and objectives**

This course will teach you about the English language. You'll learn that language, though it also evolves, functions like a machine, in predictable and systematic ways. Once you've learned how the machine works, you'll learn how to get the machine to do what you want, becoming a more effective communicator.

**Required texts**

Fromkin, Victoria, Robert Rodman, and Nina Hyams. *An Introduction to Language*. 11<sup>th</sup> ed., Cengage, 2021.

**Course learning outcomes**

Students who successfully complete this course should be able to do the following:

- Write and speak with a greater degree of clarity, confidence, and appropriateness to different kinds of readers and listeners, as a function of being able to identify and analyze how the English language works
- Understand and replicate the sounds and rhythms of language
- Understand and apply the principles of syntax and semantics in the original deployment of rhetorical devices, that is, figures and tropes
- Understand the fundamentals and evolution of Standard English and the ramifications of choice in diction, style, and register

**Course requirements and grade allocations**

The graded work in the course is as follows:

**Quizzes (30%):** We will have six quizzes, one for each of the main chapters in Fromkin (Chapters 1, 5, 6, 2, 3, and 4, in that order). Your best five quizzes will count. Quizzes will be in class.

**Assignments (40%):** We will have two short assignments (3 pages maximum). The first will ask you to analyze how sound and meaning go together (or don't) in a short piece, and the second will ask you to use the principles of the course to compose a brief work (this could be a poem, a passage from a speech, an advertisement, or even a comedy sketch). The assignments are due in Week 6 and Week 12.

**Final exam (30%):** We will have a final exam in the final exam period.

**Course Policies****Assignment Format**

All assignments are to be "typed," and must have your name, course name, section number, and instructor's name on the first page. When using sources (unlikely, but not impossible!), you will be expected to follow MLA, APA, or Chicago citation practice.

### **Submitting Assignments**

Assignments are due on the dates specified in the syllabus. Late work **will be penalized at 5% per day unless** I have permitted an extension of the due date. You must contact me ahead of time for an extension (see also the section “Accommodation Policy” below).

### **Attendance/Participation**

I hope you will be “present” and participating – and I think the course could be difficult for some students without regular attendance – but there are no penalties for non-attendance. However, obviously, we have quizzes in six of the first nine classes: writing the quizzes is important (see further “Academic Accommodation,” below).

### **Prerequisites/Antirequisites**

None.

### **Academic Accommodation**

University policy on academic considerations is described [here](#). This policy requires that all requests for academic considerations must be accompanied by a self-attestation.

Please note that any academic considerations granted in this course will be determined by the instructor, in consultation with the academic advisors in your Faculty of Registration, in accordance with information presented in this course outline.

For procedures on how to submit Academic Consideration requests through the Student Absence Portal, please see the information posted on the Office of the Registrar’s webpage:

[https://registrar.uwo.ca/academics/academic\\_considerations/index.html](https://registrar.uwo.ca/academics/academic_considerations/index.html)

All requests for Academic Consideration must be made within 48 hours after the assessment date or submission deadline.

All academic consideration requests must include supporting documentation, which may include a Student Medical Certificate. Recognizing that formal documentation may not be available in some extenuating circumstances, the policy allows students to make one Academic Consideration request **without supporting documentation** in this course. However, the following assessments are excluded from this, and therefore always require formal supporting documentation:

In this course, because not all elements of the quizzes (only five of six quizzes get counted) are required in the calculation of the final course grade, the instructor reserves the right to deny academic consideration for missed quizzes.