This is a course description rather than a syllabus. The syllabus will be posted some time in January.

Spring 2012
R 3:30-6:10
CRT 118
Instructor: Patricia Mayes
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English 634
Seminar in English Language Studies: World Englishes

Course Description

The English language now has more than one billion speakers worldwide. Many millions speak English as a native language, many more speak English as a second language, but most speak it as a foreign language. Yet, the Englishes spoken by the largest group are considered distinct from traditional “native” varieties of English, and are sometimes referred to as “New Englishes,” or “Auntie Englishes,” or even “Weird Englishes.” This course explores the historical, political, and sociocultural issues associated with the globalization of Englishes, focusing on some of the structural differences of these varieties, but also on the ideological underpinnings of debates about nativization, standardization, identity, and ownership. In exploring these issues through course readings and class discussion we will consider whether aspects of language use can be considered a ‘choice,’ as is often assumed, or the result of powerful social and political forces. We will also consider how World Englishes are related to common pedagogical problems and concerns in the English language teaching profession. Note that although this course has linguistic content, a background in linguistics is not assumed, and it satisfies the capstone seminar requirement for seniors in L&S.

(Likely) Text


Other Possible Texts


1 Note that this means that I may select another (only one more) text from this list or use a few chapters from one or more of these texts. In the latter case, those chapters would most likely be available on e-reserve.

**Other Readings**

Other course readings will be chosen from among the following, and placed on e-reserve:


