Fall 2012  
Classics 101: Latin and Greek in English Words

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Office hrs:  
TR 2:00-3:15  
and by appointment.

Course evaluation:  
Exam #1  25%  
Final Exam  25%  
Assignments  30% (exercises from the exercise booklet available online)  
Participation  20% (reading related discussion posts)

This is a 3 credit course which means that you should spend, according to the UWM estimate, 148 study hours per semester. To do well in this course I’d project you’ll spend 40hrs preparing for assignments 30 for participation, 36hrs for Exam 1 and 36 for the final exam. Of, course each of you has his/her own studying strategies and the above numbers are general, average estimates.

Course description:  
This course will give the students the opportunity to explore and examine the world of English words, their structure and origins. The primary goal will be to introduce tools and techniques needed to discuss phonological and morphological changes that accompany word formation processes. We will closely examine the marks left by Classical and other language upon English throughout its long and sometimes turbulent history. The course will leave students with a deeper appreciation for their language, and a finer ability to recognize the semantic and contextual relationships between words.

Materials: (required)  
The exercise booklet is available on Publisher’s website, ling is posted under ‘Links” on D2L.
Weekly reading and root assignments have to be submitted by Sundays by 11:59pm.

Course Overview

Sept 4, 9  Introduction. Etymological dictionaries.

Sept. 11-16. Creativity of Human Language.
Sources of word origins. (inheritance, neologisms, blending, acronyms, derivation, compounding, eponyms). Chapter I, pp.1-18


Sept. 30 Assignment 1 due by 11:59pm


Assignment 2

Oct. 16-21 Language change and its structural manifestations. Morphological rules, origins and forms of allomorphy. Chapter 5, pp.73-80
Oct.21 Assignment 2 due by 11:59pm.

Review for the Exam
Oct. 29- Nov. 4. Exam

Nov. 5-11 Predicting the allomorphy. Assimilation and lenition rules.  
Chapter 6, pp. 95-108  
Assignment 3

Nov. 12-18 Consonant and vowel deletion and insertion (ephentesis).  
Chapter 7, pp.112-126.  
Latin words and phrases in English. (Ayers, D. pp 136-143). Reserve  
(D2L) and Library Reserve  
Nov. 18 Assignment 3 due by 11:59pm.

Nov. 19-25 Fossilized allomorphy : false cognates and other etymological pitfalls.  
Chapter 8, pp.128-146  
Assignment 4

Nov. 26-Dec.2 Semantic change. Causes, direction and the results of semantic change.  
Semantic parsing. Chapter 9, pp.147-161.  
Dec.2 Assignment 4 due by 11:59pm.

Dec.4-9 Eat Your Words. Language of food. (D2L)  
Assignment 5

Dec 10-12 Review for the Final Exam  
Dec12, Assignment 5 due by 11:59pm

Final Exam given during the Final Exam week. Dec 14-23, 2012