Course syllabi for English 631

Seminar in World Englishes

General information

Instructor: Margie Berns
Office: Heavilon 207A
Class time: W 6:30 - 9:20 pm
Office hours: MWF 3:00 - 4:00 pm and by appointment
Class place: HEAV 122
Phone: 494-3769
Email: berns@purdue.edu

Course goal
Familiarity with the central issues and concerns - linguistic, social, cultural, political, and literary - associated with the global spread of English and its presence, role, and status in a range of contexts around the world.

Required texts (* = on reserve)


Recommended texts (on reserve)


Assignments and grading
Five two-page reaction papers: 100 points
Oral presentation on research paper: 100 points
Research paper: 300 points

A = 450 - 500; B = 400 - 450; C = 350 - 400; D = 300 - 350; F = < 300

Research paper
Particularly encouraged are descriptions of the use and users of English in Central and South American contexts and in Central, Northern, and Western European countries not yet profiled in the literature.

For course participants specializing in other languages of wider communication (Spanish, Russian, French, for example), descriptions of the global spread of these languages and their linguistic, social, cultural, political, and literary impact are also encouraged.

NB: Due dates for all assignments are firm; late papers are not normally accepted.

Specifications for written assignments
Reaction papers and research papers/reports are to meet basic professional standards for text preparation and layout. Maximum length is 25 pages (inclusive of reference list). Use APA, LSA, or MLA style guidelines, which are available at these locations:

The LSA [Linguistic Society of America] Style Sheet
Available online at http://www.lsadc.org/info/pubs-lang-style.cfm

(Joseph Gibaldi, New York: Modern Language Association of America, 2003
HSSE (Reference Desk)
808.02 M72mo 2003
Undergraduate (Reference)
808.02 M72mo 2003

The Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (APA)
HSSE: 808.02 Am354p 1994 c. 7
HSSE (Reference Desk)/ 808.02 Am354p 1994, c. 10
HSSE (Reference Desk)/ 808.02 Am354p 1994, c. 11
Management & Economics (Reference)/ 808.02 Am354p 1994, c. 12
Psychological Sciences (Reference)/ 808.02 Am354p 1994, c. 2
Psychological Sciences (Reference)/ 808.02 Am354p 1994, c. 3
Undergraduate/ 808.02 Am354p 1994, c. 9
Undergraduate (Reference)/ 808.02 Am354p 1994, c. 6
Undergraduate (Reference)/ 808.02 Am354p 1994, c. 8
Resource list
Periodicals publishing papers on world Englishes (selected)

*English Language Teaching Journal*
HSSE 420.5 En36

*English Today*
HSSE 420.5 En365

*English Worldwide*
(see website for Tables of Contents)

*International Journal of Applied Linguistics* (available as e-journal)

*TESOL Quarterly*
HSSE 420.7 T22

*World Englishes*
HSSE 420.5 W893

**Encyclopedia and dictionaries** (incomplete list)


