

## **B.A. (Honours) in Contemporary English Studies**

<b>Course Title</b>	:	Words: Their Form and Meaning
<b>Course Code</b>	:	ENG378
<b>Recommended Study Year</b>	:	2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Year
<b>No. of Credits/Term</b>	:	3
<b>Mode of Tuition</b>	:	Lecture and Tutorial
<b>Class Contact Hours</b>	:	2 hours Lecture/week 1 hour Tutorial/week
<b>Category in Major Programme</b>	:	Disciplinary Elective
<b>Prerequisite(s)</b>	:	N/A
<b>Co-requisite(s)</b>	:	N/A
<b>Exclusion(s)</b>	:	N/A
<b>Exemption Requirement(s)</b>	:	N/A

### **Brief Course Description**

This course is an introduction to the study of the forms and meanings of words in the English Language. It demonstrates how the forms of words can be changed by processes like inflection, derivation and compounding, and gives practical exercises in using suffixes to recognise word-class. It discusses how meanings of words can be defined and analysed according to various dimensions of meaning, how these meanings relate to each other and depend upon grammar and reference. It explores the information about words given in dictionaries, and suggests techniques for efficiently learning vocabulary. It demonstrates and teaches the use of computer corpora (such as the Bank of English) both for investigating aspects of words such as meaning, word-class, grammatical uses, and for compiling dictionary entries.

### **Aims**

The course aims

1. To make students aware of the forms of words, how these forms relate to meaning and meaning to context
2. To explore the rich information about words available in different kinds of dictionaries
3. To help students build their own vocabulary and to use words effectively

### **Learning Outcomes**

By the end of the course students should:

1. Be aware of different kinds of meanings
2. Understand how meanings relate to each other
3. Understand how words are structured
4. Be able to use suffixes to predict word-class

5. Understand how word meanings vary according to reference and to grammar
6. Be aware of the kinds of information on words included in dictionaries
7. Have practiced some techniques for learning vocabulary
8. Be competent in the use of corpus data for the description of words their meanings and grammar

### **Indicative Content**

1. Defining the word
2. The structure of words: morphology
3. The structure of words: derivation and meaning change
4. The boundaries of words: compounds, phrases and collocations
5. The use of computer corpora in defining the word
6. Different types of meaning
7. Patterns of meaning in the computer corpus
8. Relations between meanings
9. Meaning, reference and prototype
10. Words, meaning and grammar
11. Grammatical patterning in the corpus
12. Information on words in dictionaries
13. The role of corpora in compiling dictionaries
14. Learning vocabulary

### **Teaching Method**

A combination of lectures, tutorials and student presentations. The lectures will explain concepts important to the content of the course, and the tutorials will be small group discussions involving problems in morphology, semantics and the analysis of concordance data.

### **Measurement of Learning Outcomes**

1. Presentations will be able to judge how well students have mastered the concepts and can apply them to vocabulary and its use in texts;
2. Tests and the examination will measure students' understanding of the concepts, their progress in learning vocabulary by morphological analysis, and their competence in discussing theoretical problems in lexicology;
3. Tutorials will gauge students' ability to apply lexicological concepts to problems and to text analysis;
4. The essay will measure students' grasp of the theoretical concepts in lexicology;
5. The Writing a Dictionary Entry assignment will test students' understanding of the information in dictionaries and how this is compiled from concordance data.

## Assessment

Continuous assessment: 60%

Examination: 40%

Students will be assessed on the following:

1 essay: 10%

Writing a dictionary entry: 15%

Presentation: 15%

2 tests: 20%

Exam: 40%

## Readings

There will be selections from the following:

Aitchison, J., *Words in the Mind*, Oxford: Blackwell, 1994.

Biber, D., Conrad, S. and Reppen, R., *Corpus Linguistics: investigating language structure*, Cambridge: CUP, 1999.

Carter, R., *Vocabulary: applied linguistic perspectives*, London: Unwin Hyman, 1987.

Gairns, R. and Redman, S., *Working With Words*, CUP, 1986.

Goatly, A., *The Language of Metaphors*, London: Routledge, 1997.

Hoey, M., *Lexical Priming*, London: Routledge, 2005.

Hudson, R.A., *Word Meaning*, London: Routledge, 1995.

Hunston, S., *Corpora in Applied Linguistics*, Cambridge: CUP, 2002.

Langacker, R.W., *Language and its Structure*, New York: Hart, Brace and World, 1967.

Leech, G.N., *Semantics*. Harmondsworth: Penguin, 1981.

Lyons, J., *Semantics*, Cambridge: CUP, 1977.

Palmer, F.R., *Semantics*, 1981.

Quirk, R. and Greenbaum, S., *A University Grammar of English*, Harlow: Longman, 1973.

Sinclair, J., *Corpus, Concordance, Collocation*, Oxford: OUP, 1991.

Stubbs, M., *Text and Corpus Analysis*, Oxford: Blackwell, 2003.

Ullmann, S., *Semantics*, Oxford: Blackwell, 1962.