

All materials handed in for grade MUST fill out and include the following Information Header at the start of the document or on a separate cover sheet.

Your name
Your student ID #
Course Name
Instructor's Name
Assignment Title
Your Subtitle (where applicable)
Date Submitted

Due Date

See the *Course Outline* or the *Readings and Assignment Schedule* for due dates.

Objectives

- DEFINE a word by using specialized reference sources and dictionaries;
- COMPARE and SYNTHESIZE these definitions in order to
- ANALYSE a word's development over time (through semantic amelioration, pejoration, shifts in semantic field, expansion and specialization of denotation);
- CONTEXTUALIZE this development by tracing a word's usage in a range of semantic fields (political, social, scientific, literary, philosophical etc.)
- HYPOTHESIZE about the relationship between etymological change and these broader contexts;
- PRACTICE critical inquiry and attuned awareness to the role language plays in social change;
- ARTICULATE your ideas in a clear, well-supported and documented essay.

Instructions

The etymology of each word in the list at the end of this document reflects a long and sometimes contentious history of social change and debate in a range of contexts and semantic fields. Your task is to extrapolate from a word's etymology to consider the social, political, intellectual, philosophical and artistic movements, upheavals and investments that have shaped how the word is used in a living, changing society.

You are expected to expand your research beyond dictionaries and reference sources to the broader intellectual and social contexts in which the word is used.

1. CHOOSE a word from the list at the end of this document;
2. DEFINE the word using *at least* THREE (3) different dictionary/etymological sources. This is a *synthetic* exercise in which you will be considering the *relationship among* these

definitions, so you must not limit yourself to copying out the definitions. Include illustrative quotations that demonstrate the word's development;

3. ANALYSE the word's development over time and across a range of contexts. You may find that a specific semantic field is rich enough to support a full discussion, but you must begin by mapping the word's usage in a range of contexts.
4. DISCUSS the relationship between *social change* and the word's etymological development over time. Be sure to make use of appropriate *specialized vocabulary* such as the following: ameliorization, pejoration, semantic field, speech community, expansion and specialization of denotation and connotation etc.
5. SUPPORT your discussion with direct reference to a range of sources. You must include the following:
 - a. At least THREE (3) dictionaries and specialized etymological sources;
 - b. At least THREE (3) contextual sources (Eg. Scientific, philosophical, literary etc.)
6. WRITE a well-organized, well-supported essay that argues a clear and well-articulated thesis.

Format

LENGTH: 1000 words.

- Typed;
- Times New Roman, 12 pt font;
- White paper;
- Stapled in the *upper left-hand corner* (no duotangs or folders);
- Pages numbered in the *upper right-hand corner*;
- Include the Information Header at the start of the document;
- Include a Works Cited page in proper MLA format.

Word List

SENSE	BODY	TONGUE
PERSON	RIGHT	MAN
NATURE	BEAUTY	ROMANTIC
WIT	CONSTITUTION	COMMON
		ORDER

Some Useful Sources

Oxford English Dictionary (on-line or hard copy)
Websters and other dictionaries (on-line or hard copy)
 Etymological dictionaries

Folk Etymologies

Thesauruses (*Roget's* and others, on-line or hard copy)

Concordances (on-line or hard copy)

Specialized Glossaries (linguistics, toponymics, literary theory, art, science, philosophy etc.)

Grammar and Research Handbooks (MLA, *Fit To Print*, *Little Brown Handbook* etc.)

Encyclopedias

Online Databases: Women's Resources International, Alternative Press Index, ProQuest, MLA Index

Scholarly texts on Language and Social Use (Raymond Williams' *Keywords*; *The Norton Anthology of Theory and Criticism*)