

## Building a Powerful Vocabulary

WRBS6203

### Course Outline

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#### Description:

Your vocabulary is a vital communication tool -- make sure you are using it correctly. This course teaches the history and mechanics of the English language to assist students to develop and employ an expressive and professional vocabulary. This course is tailored to any individual who wishes to communicate clearly, persuasively and precisely. Classes will include a combination of open quizzes/exercises, chapter presentations and related overviews and open discussion.

#### Course Goals:

The course is aimed at helping students become independently aware of ways to enhance their use of the English language during the writing and expressive process through instruction, hands-on exercises and open class discussion.

It is also aimed at providing students the tools and abilities necessary to solve their English vocabulary questions and select the appropriate words to convey their ideas most effectively.

#### Course Objectives:

At the completion of this course, the student will be able to recognize opportunities to enhance their use of the English language and use the appropriate resources they need to independently select appropriate and effective words to communicate effectively.

#### Attendance Requirements:

Students must miss no more than two classes to receive a completion for this course. A grade report can be printed from myWCS.

#### Code of Student Conduct

The purpose of the Code of Student Conduct is to define the general standard of conduct expected of students registered at The University of Western Ontario, provide examples of behaviour that constitutes a breach of this standard of conduct, provide examples of sanctions that may be imposed, and set out the disciplinary procedures that the University will follow. For the complete Code of Student Conduct: <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/board/code.pdf>

## Course Schedule:

### **WK 1: How did we get to this point?**

Course Overview and Introduction  
Improve Your Pronunciation  
Improve Your Spelling

Textbook: Chapters 1 and 2  
In-class Open Quiz #1; Word Formation Exercise #1

Read Ahead: Chapters 3 and 4

### **WK 2: From Basic to Bemused**

Words Commonly Confused  
Usage Basics

Textbook: Chapters 3 and 4  
In-class Open Quiz #2; Word Formation Exercise #2

Read Ahead: Chapters 5 and 6

### **WK 3: From the ground up: Building your vocabulary from root words**

Learning How Words are Built Using Prefixes and Suffixes  
Learning How Words are Built from their Roots

Textbook: Chapters 5 and 6  
In-class Open Quiz #3; Word Formation Exercise #3

Read Ahead: Chapters 7 and 8

### **WK 4: From the Greeks, Romans, Normans and everyone else**

Learning Words from their Histories  
Words Borrowed from Other Languages

Textbook: Chapters 7 and 8  
In-class Open Quiz #4; Word Formation Exercise #4

Read Ahead: Chapters 9 and 10

### **WK 5: From the street, the stadium and the C-suite**

Specialized Vocabularies  
Slang, Jargon and Dialect

Textbook: Chapters 9 and 10  
In-class Open Quiz #5; Word Formation Exercise #5

Read Ahead: Chapters 11 and 12

### **WK 6: From 140 characters to three-letter abbreviations**

Shortened Forms in English  
Guide to Sensitivity in Language

Textbook: Chapters 11 and 12

# Western Continuing Studies

In-class Open Quiz #6; Word Formation Exercise #6

Read Ahead: Chapters 13 and 14

**WK 7: From texting to decoding the vernacular**

Word Power for Non-native Speakers  
Power Vocabulary for the 21st Century

Textbook: Chapters 13 and 14  
In-class Open Quiz #7; Word Formation Exercise #7

Read Ahead: Chapter 15

**WK 8: From start to finish: summarizing learning in applications**

Vocabulary-Building Puzzles  
Textbook: Chapter 15  
Final Review

In-class Open Quiz #8; Word Formation Exercise #8