



## SATURDAY ENRICHMENT SPRING 2019 *LOST WORDS OF ENGLISH*

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Location: Loew Hall 118

### Course Description

Ever wonder where the word *frisbee* comes from? How about *bikini* or *groggy*? *Mesmerize* or *clue*? What are the origins of words such as *sandwich*, *serendipity*, *janitor*, and *morgue*?

In this class, students will learn interesting word histories, solve word puzzles and riddles, as well as study 250 basic word parts (i.e., prefixes, roots/stems, and suffixes) that will give them the tools to unlock the meaning of more than 100,000 words in English.

*Lost Words of English* is organized by the instructor into collaborative pairs or teams that apply a set of etymological and lexicographical skills to solve “mysteries” related to lost words of English (e.g., *loblolly*, *scaramouch*, and those like *malapert* that appear in the various works of Shakespeare), word histories, neologisms or newly coined words, obscure words (e.g., *psithurism*, *absquatulate*, etc.), and generational words like *skedaddle*, *hep*, *hacker*, and *selfie*.

Critical reading, writing, and thinking skills will be articulated through observational, written “Word Reports” that students will complete in pairs or teams.

### Essential Questions

What is a neologism? What is an *anonymyponym* or “anonymous” proper name? What is a toponym or place name? What is a dictionary entry? What is an etymology or word history? What are the eight parts of speech? What are word parts (i.e., 65 prefixes, 160 roots/stems, and 25 suffixes)? How can word parts and their meanings be applied to unlock the meaning of words? How do the connotation and denotation of words over time influence our understanding of words?

### Learning Outcomes

**Students will understand** the definitions for neologism, *anonymyponym*, toponym; they will understand what a dictionary entry is, what an etymology is, and what a part of speech is; they will understand the meanings of 250 prefixes, roots/stems, and suffixes; they will understand how to deconstruct and unlock the meaning of words by identifying individual word parts; they will also understand how the connotation and denotation of words over time influence our understanding of words.

**Students will be able to** identify neologisms, *anonymyponyms*, and toponyms; they will be able to look up individual words in an unabridged dictionary and to find the etymology for those words; they will be able to identify certain word parts in individual words and to apply the meaning of those word parts to arrive at reasonable and accurate definitions of those words without a

dictionary; they will also be able to understand how the connotation and denotation of words over time influence our understanding of words.

### Instructional Strategies

Didactic, coaching, Socratic, and ludic or “gaming” methods of instruction will be coupled with clear standards and objectives; problem solving; hands-on, project-based work; positive feedback on student writing; consistent pacing of lessons; and three-tiered thinking (i.e., analysis, application, and creativity).

### Student Assessment

Since this class is designed to encourage students to engage in the process of learning about the lexicographical and etymological work that makes words, dictionaries, communication, and “a world represented through words” possible or accessible, assessment will entail constructive criticism from the instructor on each student’s/group’s “word detective reports.”

### Resources and Materials

All materials for the class will be provided by the Robinson Center. We will be using:

*Oxford American Dictionary, Oxford Dictionary of Word Origins, From Skedaddle to Selfie: Words of the Generations, Merriam-Webster’s Language Reference Set, The Official Scrabble Players Dictionary, Tile Lock Scrabble, Boggle Classic, and Word Search Puzzle Book for Teens.*

### Tentative Course Schedule

Date	Topic(s)	In-Class Activities
Week 1 -- April 6	Obscure & Archaic Words	Reading Shakespeare et al.
Week 2 -- April 13	Anonymonyms	Word Detective Report 1
Week 3 -- April 27	Toponyms	Word Detective Report 2
Week 4 -- May 4	65 Prefixes	Playing “Prefix Cards” & Boggle
Week 5 -- May 11	25 Suffixes	Playing “Suffix Cards” & Scrabble
Week 6 -- May 18	160 Roots/Stems	Playing “Root/Stem Cards” & Boggle
Week 7 -- June 1	Etymology or Word Histories of “Lost Words”	Looking up words in the Oxford Dictionary of Word Origins
Week 8 -- June 8	Eight Parts of Speech; Defining Words	Identifying parts of speech in word search puzzles; looking up words in the OAD & thesaurus; writing our own dictionary definitions