



Welcome to ENGL 507

Fall 2013
Dr. Koster

So have you ever wondered....



why plurals can be so different?

- Boy
- Man
- Child
- Ox
- Data
- Alumnus
- Alumna
- Goose
- Moose
- Mouse

why verbs don't behave the same?

- Today I fit
Yesterday I **fitted**
I have fitted
- I wink
Yesterday I **winked**
I have winked
- or
- Today I sit
Yesterday I **sat**
I have sat
- I think
Yesterday I **thought**
I have thought
- I drink
Yesterday I **drank**
I have **drunk**

and why are some verbs really irregular?

- I exist
You exist
He/she/it exists
We/you/they exist

I existed

I have existed
- I am
You are
He/she/it is
We/you/they are

I was / you were

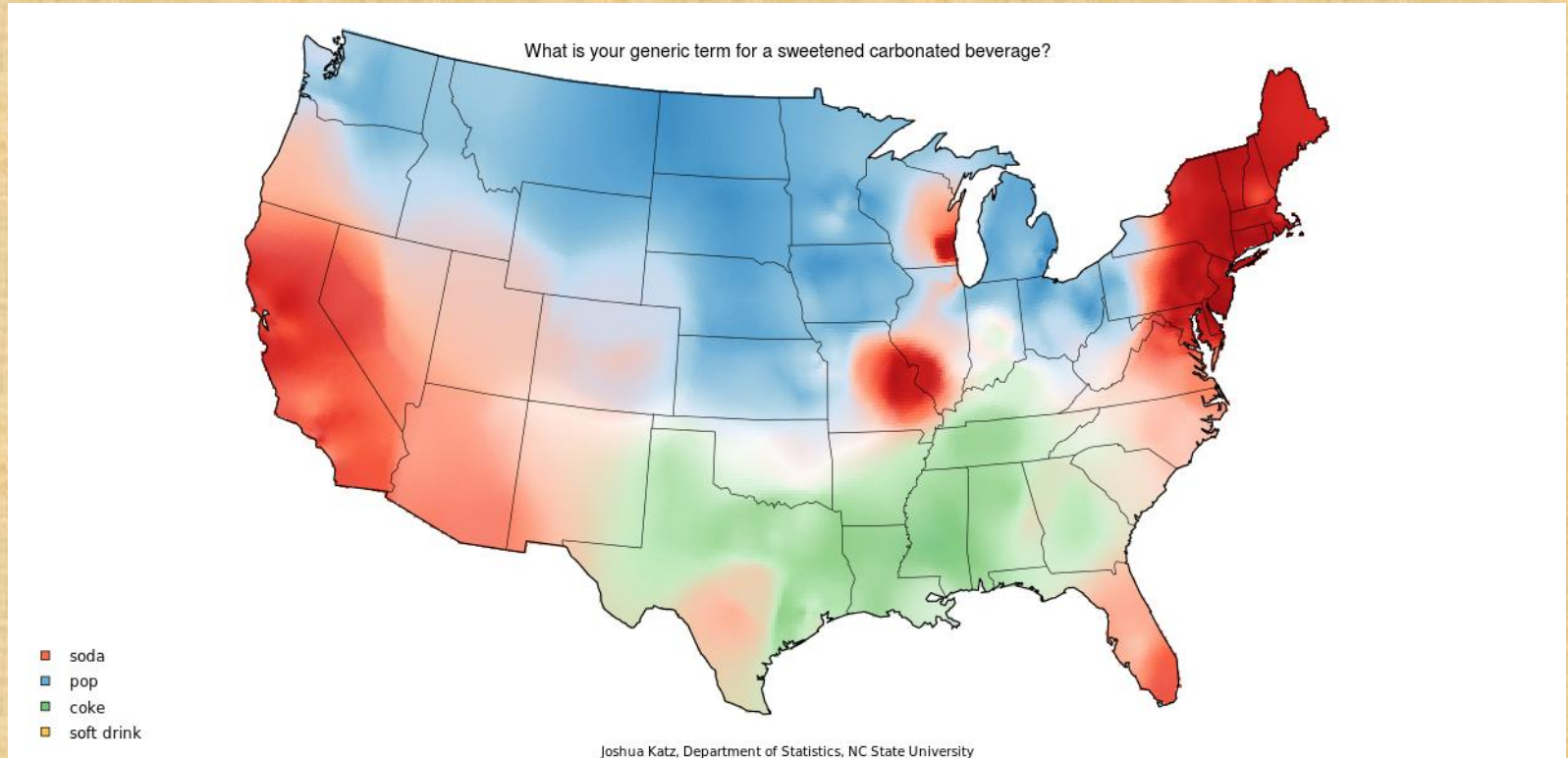
I have been

Have you ever asked....



- Who decides what's in the dictionary?
- Who gets to add new words?
- Who decides if a word is “proper English?”
- Why do we have alternate spellings for words like color/colour and grey/gray?

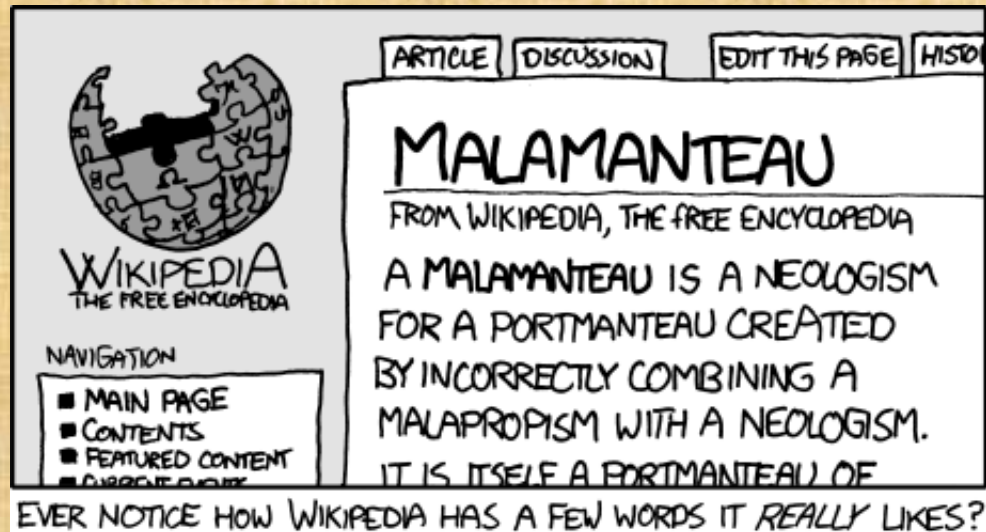
What's the right word: coke, pop, or soda?

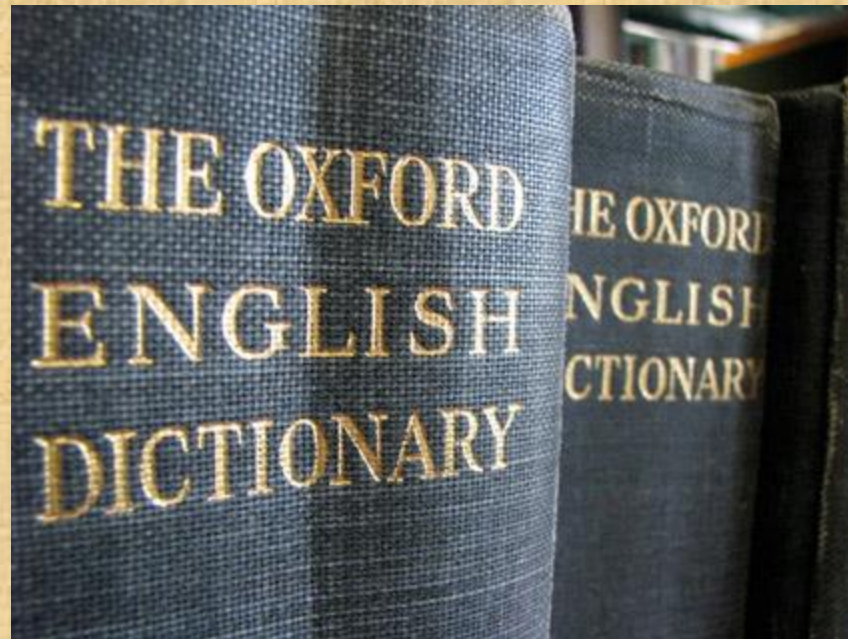


- <http://spark-1590165977.us-west-2.elb.amazonaws.com/jkatz/SurveyMaps/>

And have you ever wondered

- Are people with heavy “foreign” accents less intelligent than I am?
- Is slang *really* bad English?
- Does America need an English-only law?
- Iz txtng hrtng r kdz? kthxbai!





All of these matters are covered when you study

THE HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

What will you learn this semester?

- The external **historical** factors that have shaped English as a language. (This is a historical perspectives course, so expect to learn names, dates, events, etc.)
- The **linguistic** factors that have shaped English (in terms of sound systems & grammatical and vocabulary changes)—that's why you need a semester of foreign language instruction to enroll

as well as

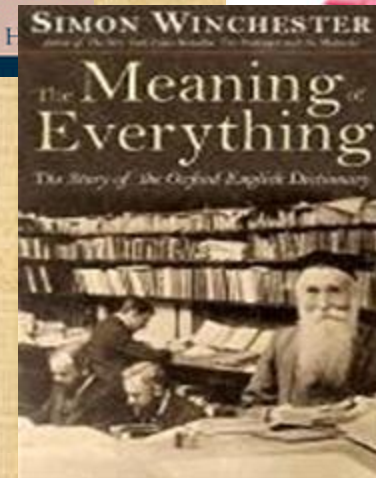
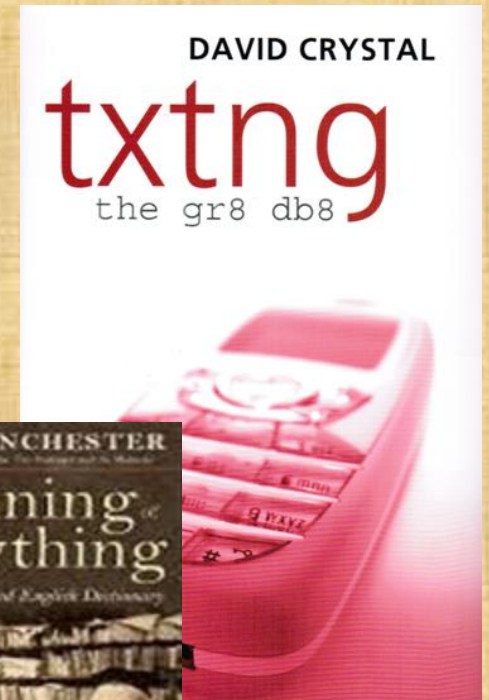
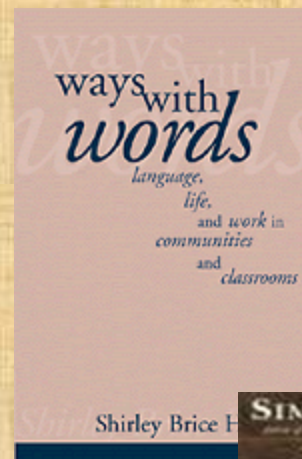
- The **cultural** and **political** factors and patterns of language change
- The ways people **acquire and use** English as a language
and
- The **scholarly resources** we use to study English as a **language**

The texts

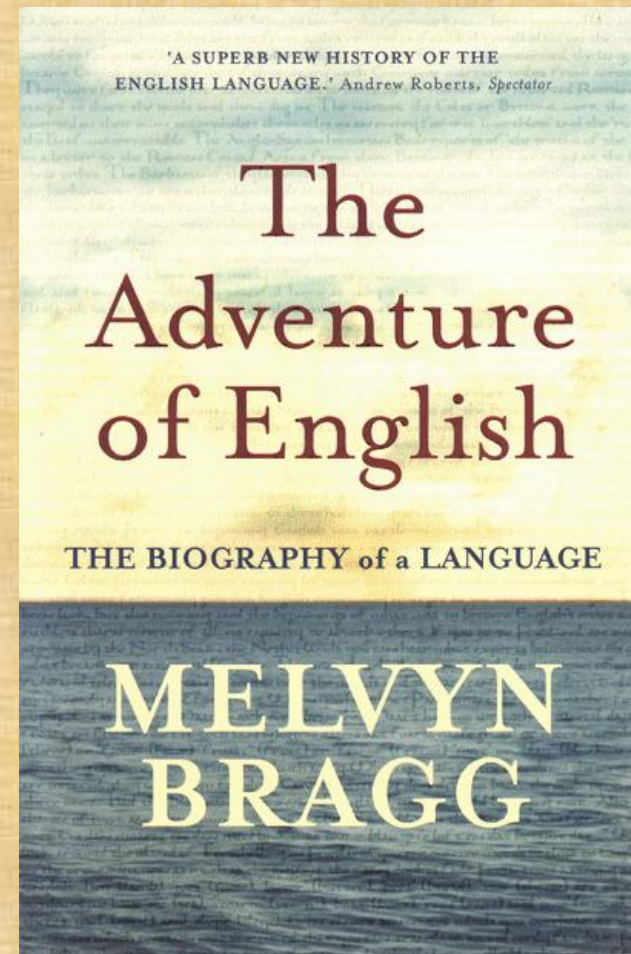
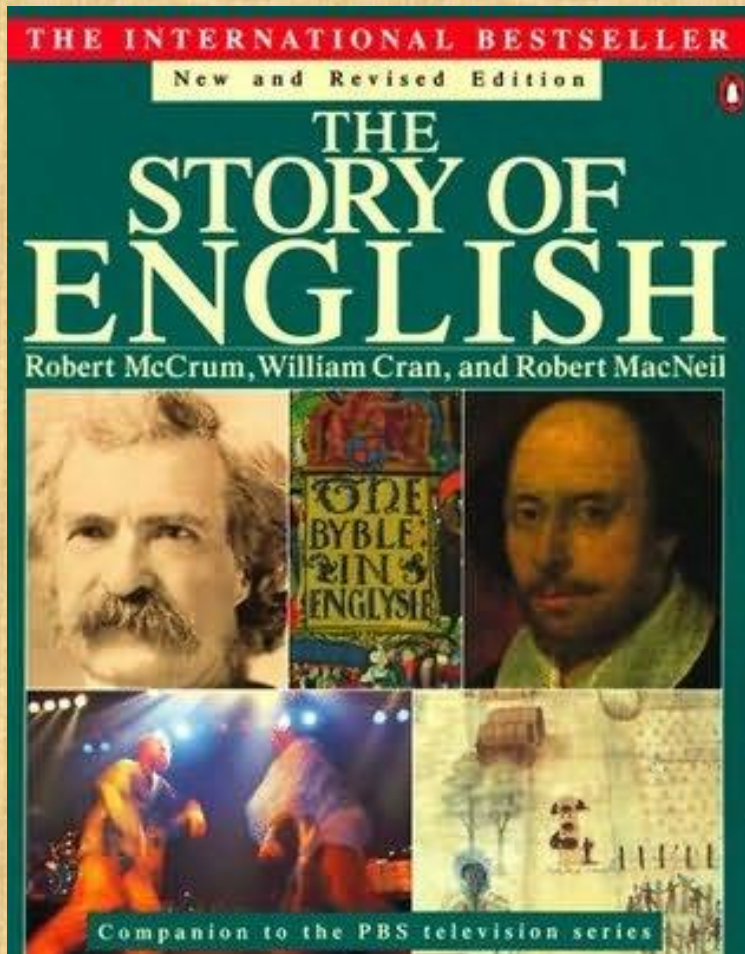
Algeo, Origins and Development



A book club choice

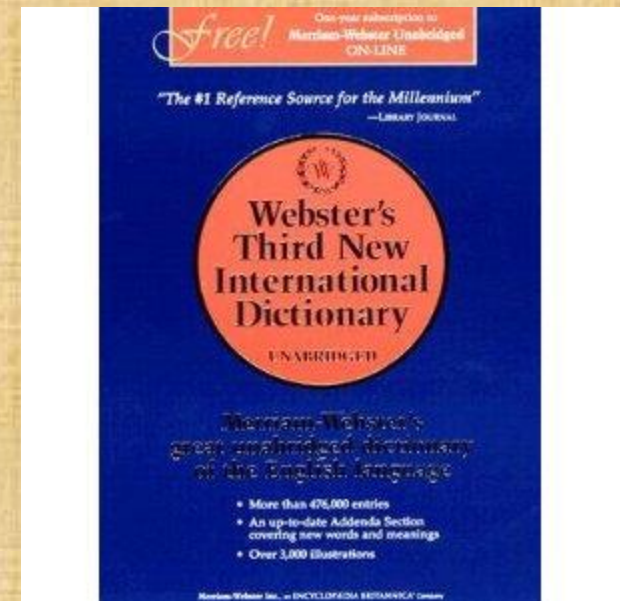
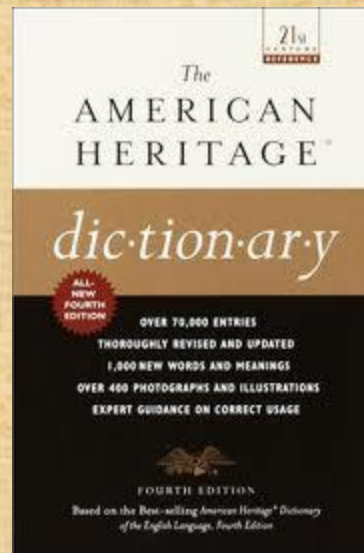
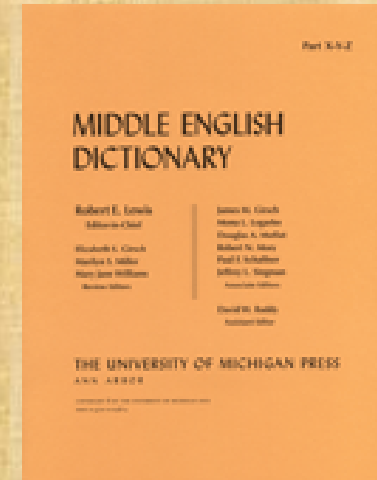
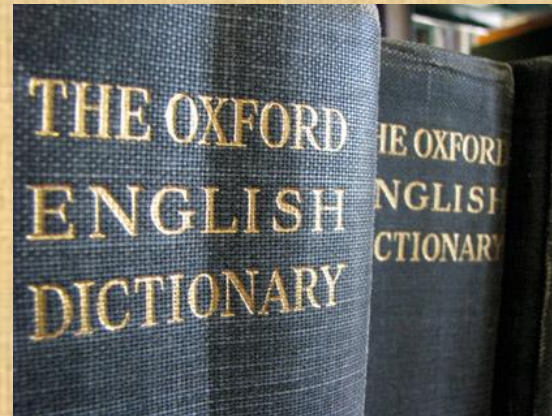
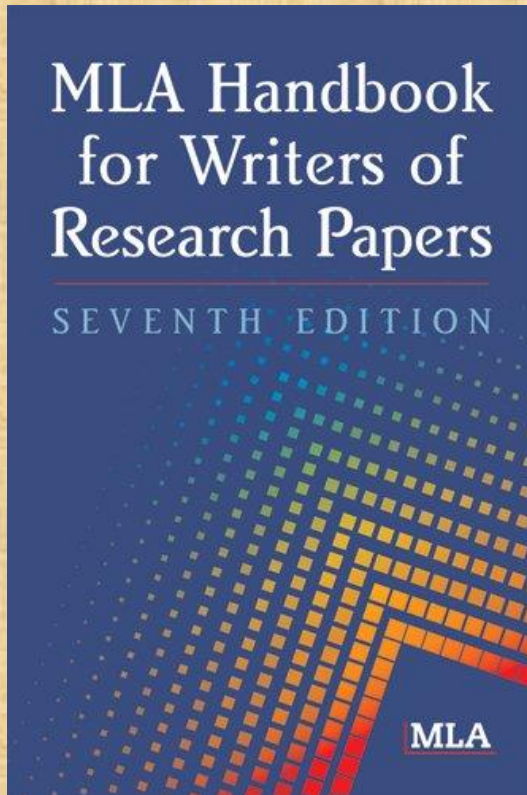


Multimedia Files



and access to

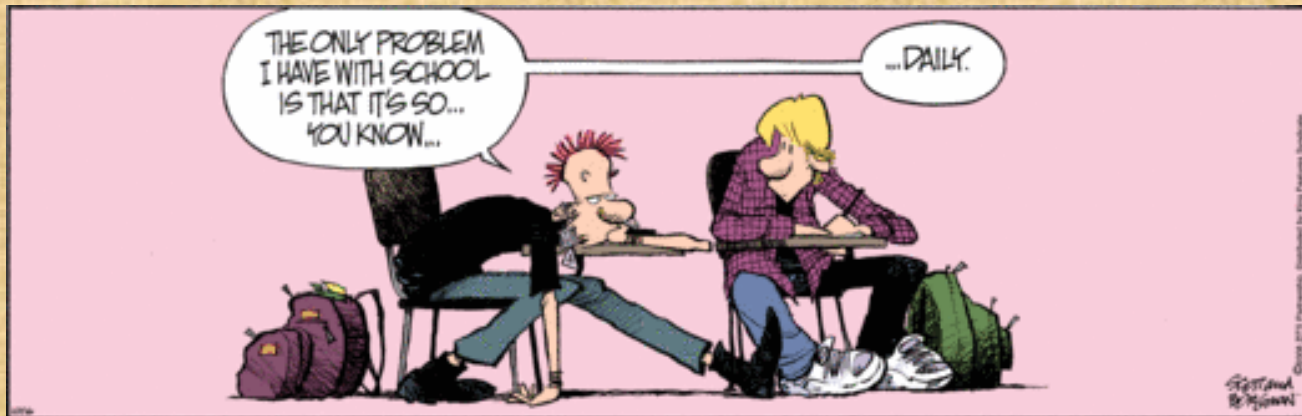
The MLA Handbook 2009 ed.
(In paper or online)



And there's a class website,
[http://faculty.winthrop.edu/
kosterj/engl507.htm](http://faculty.winthrop.edu/kosterj/engl507.htm)

About the workload

- Think of this as a language class, not a literature class—accretive knowledge
- Work steadily, not in spurts; okay to work in teams
- Material is cumulative, so if you get behind, it's hard to catch up—if you're struggling, see me EARLY!



And a caveat...

- You're not all in this class for the same reason. Some of the material will be more interesting to some groups than to others.
- However, you're all responsible for all of it.
- Have patience & fake your enthusiasm if need be.



You can reach me

- By e-mail at kosterj@winthrop.edu
- Either online or in my office (228 Bancroft)
- Office Hours MTWR 4-5 PM; frequently online; and gladly by appointment



So what do you do now?

- Get the books—
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