

UNIVERSITY OF GÖTEBORG  
English Department  
at University of Sussex  
C-level  
Ulf Dantanus

December 2001

Dear C-course students,

Please forgive the impersonality of the address; I hope to learn your names soon after your arrival at Sussex. Before then I would be grateful if you could start preparing for the course by thinking about the C-course essay (worth 10 of the 20 points on the course).

First of all, you have to consider the question as to whether you would like to do a project on English literature or on English language.

#### **English literature:**

There are, basically, no restrictions as to the subject you may choose for your essay, as long as it deals with English literature, that is, literature in the English language. Some recent essays have dealt with:

The Betrayal of Tradition in Chinua Achebe's *Things Fall Apart* and *No Longer at Ease*  
Imagery and Symbolic Meaning in Charlotte Brontë's *Jane Eyre*  
Intertextuality in David Lodge's *Nice Work*  
Paul Auster and the Anti-Detective Novel  
Christian Virtues in J.R.R. Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings*  
Metafictional Aspects of John Fowles' *The Magus*  
Light and Darkness in Henry Vaughan's *Silex Scintillans*  
Examples of Shakespeare's Stagecraft in *Macbeth*  
Willie Loman's American Dream in *Death of a Salesman*  
George Orwell and the Corruption of Language  
A Feminist Reading of Virginia Woolf's *To the Lighthouse*  
Sexuality in Victorian England: Bram Stoker's *Dracula*

#### **English language:**

There is a range of subjects available in different areas of the English language: English phonetics and phonology, English morphology, Dialectology, Sociolinguistics, Psycholinguistics, History of English (internal and external), English personal and place-names etc.

Some recent essays have dealt with:

The Language of Magazine Advertising  
The Third Age: a Short Survey of Euphemisms Referring to Old Age  
A Study of Bilingualism  
Selma Lagerlöf in English Translation: *The Wonderful Adventures of Nils*  
Cockney's Influence on English Accents  
Phonology in Second Language Acquisition  
A Study of the Formation of Slang  
Does Women's Speech Ensure Them a Less Powerful Position in Society?  
The Role of Dialects and Standards in Education

Feminist Linguistic Theory of Gender Difference and Linguistic Behaviour  
Sexist Language in Children's School Textbooks  
Why is Standard English Spoken by Such a Relatively Small Proportion of the  
Population of Britain?  
Persuasive Features in the Discourse of the Chairman's Statement  
The Use of Metaphors in Economic and/or Political News. A Comparison Between  
Quality and Popular Newspapers  
A Survey of Contractions (isn't, doesn't) in the Weekly Newsmagazine *TIME*  
Punctuation in English Newspapers and Magazines

At our introductory meeting on 21 January we will discuss the choice of subject and other important matters. By the end of the first week you will be expected to have chosen a preliminary subject for your essay, and in the following week your personal supervisor will be appointed.

I look forward to seeing you at Sussex.

Best wishes

Ulf Dantanus