

Use the Saussure and Chomsky texts, along with class notes and other material provided on the Moodle site for this course, to respond to the following questions/prompts. Write at least eight pages total on any three questions, provided you choose at least one question from each group.

- I. A. Explain the difference between *meaning* (or *signification*) and *value* by quoting and commenting on relevant passages from *Cours de linguistique générale*.
 - B. Illustrate at least three points of Saussure's theory using examples from KiSwahili and Mandarin.
 - C. Discuss the limitations of the metaphors (chess, economics, architecture, and possibly others) that Saussure uses in the *Cours* to explain his theory of language.
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- II. A. In *Aspects of the Theory of Syntax*, Chomsky takes a dim view of Saussure's ideas about "the language mechanism," even though his notions of *competence* and *performance* seem to analogous to Saussure's *langue* and *parole*. Explain.
 - B. Discuss the ways in which Chomsky's syntactic theory anticipates the semantic theories of cognitive linguistics.
 - C. How do the theoretical concerns of cognitive linguistics compare to the traditional literary distinction between *denotation* and *connotation* and to the traditional linguistic notion of the lexical set?