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ENG 2901-001 Structure of English

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[Book an Appointment](#)

Syllabus for English 2901.001: Structure of English, FA 2023, CRN 91233

Required Texts

An Introduction to the Grammar of English, revised edition, 2010, Elly van Gelderen
The Five-Minute Linguist, 2nd edition, 2012, edited by E. M. Rickerson and Barry Hilton

Catalog Description

This course is an introduction to the grammar of English. It is designed to help you learn to describe and analyze the structure of sentences in English and, as such, focuses primarily on syntax. However, phonology (pronunciation), morphology (word forms), and semantics (meaning) will also come up from time to time. Although we will consider grammar from both traditional and modern perspectives, we will take a rhetorical rather than rules-based approach. In other words, we will treat grammar as a tool for reflecting on possible stylistic choices, not as a set of inflexible rules. Ideally, this course will heighten your understanding of the complexity of the English language and help you develop strategies for communicating clearly and effectively in speech and writing.

Learning Objectives

This semester, you will learn to:

- diagram phrases and sentences;
- employ concepts and technical terms related to grammar and linguistics;
- describe and analyze how sentences are constructed in English;
- recognize and appreciate varieties of English;
- use grammatical and linguistic knowledge to make careful choices in your own speech and writing.

Assignments

Examinations: mid-term and comprehensive final examinations (paper format) will test your knowledge of course material.

Group Presentation: your group will explain a short article from *The Five-Minute Linguist*, providing examples to support your reading of the article.

Individual Presentation: the individual presentation will focus on the etymology of a word or phrase, or on another topic related to the course.

Quizzes: you will take at least two online quizzes covering course material.

Daily Assignments: daily assignments include various types of home- or in-class work such as completing exercises or other individual or group activities. This work will be assigned on a day-to-day basis.

Policies and Statements

COVID-19: To view the latest EIU COVID-19 related information and any policy updates, please visit <https://www.eiu.edu/covid/>. This class will follow EIU's official policy. At present, EIU is mask optional: "As a mask optional campus, the facial covering decisions and practices of all members of the campus community will be respected." You are strongly urged to stay home from class and visit the student health clinic if you feel sick with any respiratory symptoms.

Office Hours: This semester, I will typically hold office hours in my office on TR from 10:45-12:15 and on W from 1:30-2:30. To book an appointment during my office hours, click the [Book an Appointment](#) link on the syllabus or in D2L, choose an available time, and submit. Walk-ins are welcome, but scheduled appointments have precedence. If my availability during a given week changes, the change will be reflected on my booking page. If my office hours don't work with your schedule, please ask me about other options.

Email: Email is the best way to get in touch with me. I try to answer emails as quickly as possible, but please do not depend on an immediate response to an email. My goal is to respond to all emails within 24 hours.

Late Work: All work for the course should be completed by the deadlines indicated in D2L, on the syllabus, and/or on assignment sheets. Most daily assignments are due in class on the day they are assigned. **Unexcused Absences:** if you miss a day without an excuse, you can—on four occasions—make up daily assignments on your own. Do so by completing an “Optional Review” in the current module in D2L. **Any “Optional Review” submitted in place of a class activity must be completed on the day the class activity occurred (i.e., the day you missed) unless you negotiate another deadline either in advance of or on the day of the unexcused absence.** If you make up work this way, I will accept it without excuse up to **four times**. In-class responses associated with the presentations are excluded from this policy. If you miss them, they cannot be made up. **Excused Absences:** If you feel unable to complete an assignment (i.e., quiz, exam, or presentation) for the class on time due to participation in an official university activity or volunteer emergency work, you should provide me with documentation before the assignment deadline and negotiate an alternative schedule. If you miss class due to an illness or emergency, you should provide me with a digital copy of your documentation as soon as possible and negotiate specific terms—including a deadline—for the completion of all missed work. If you miss an in-class activity due to an excused absence, you may make it up by properly documenting the absence and doing an “Optional Review” in D2L or other equivalent work. If you miss a peer evaluation of a presentation due to an excused absence, it will remain ungraded, not counting for or against your overall daily assignment grade.

Quizzes and exams will be rescheduled only in the case of an excused absence. Any rescheduled quiz or exam may differ substantially in content and format from the original. All late work will be made up or rescheduled at my discretion. Late work will not be accepted more than one week after the original deadline, except in the most extenuating of circumstances.

Grading Scale: 100 to 90 = A, 89.99 to 80 = B, 79.99 to 70 = C, 69.99 to 60 = D, 59.99 and below F

Percentages for Assignments

Midterm and Final Exams	25% each
Group Presentation	10%
Individual Presentation	10%
Quizzes and Daily Assignments	25%
Participation	5%

Assessment: I will provide assignment sheets for the presentations. Your grades for these assignments will be determined by how well your work fulfills the requirements outlined in the assignment sheet. Daily assignments will typically count for 10-20 points each. Quizzes will typically count for 20 to 50 points each. Your “Quizzes and Daily Assignments” percentage grade will be determined by dividing your point total by the total number of points possible. Your participation grade will be based, as applicable, on your level of engagement with content in D2L, your ability to work with your group on the presentation, the regularity and quality of your contributions to class discussions or activities during face-to-face or online meetings, and/or the completion of daily assignments. The participation grade is not based on the percentage of the class you participated in. For instance, if you miss four or more in-class activities during the semester due to unexcused absences, you should consider your participation grade to be forfeit.

Academic Dishonesty: To avoid plagiarism, always place quoted materials in quotation marks, and always cite quoted and paraphrased sources, even in rough drafts of papers or presentations. It is not acceptable to borrow the language and/or content of a website and use it as an “original” paper, post, or presentation. Respect for the intellectual work of others should encompass all formats, including print, electronic, and oral sources. The penalty for academic dishonesty is failure in the course. All instances of academic dishonesty will be reported to the Office of Student Standards. For additional information about EIU’s student code of conduct, see the widget on the D2L homepage for this course.

The Office of Disability Services: If you are a student with a documented disability in need of accommodations, please contact the Office of Student Disability Services (OSDS) as soon as possible. Please stop by McAfee, Room 1210, or call 217-581-6583 to make an appointment.

The Student Success Center: Students who are having difficulty achieving their academic goals are encouraged to contact the Student Success Center for assistance with time management, test taking, note taking, avoiding procrastination, setting goals, and other skills to support academic achievement. The Student Success Center provides individualized consultations. To make an appointment, call 217-581-6696, or go to McAfee, Room 1336.

Click this link for a list of [EIU Resources for Student Well-Being](#).

Provisional Schedule

Each week, look at the current module description in D2L for a full list of assignments.

Consider the module descriptions to be an extension of the syllabus.

Readings are always due before class on the day they are listed.

VG = Van Gelderen's *Introduction to the Grammar of English*

<u>Module One</u>	(Aug 21-25)
T Aug 22	Introduction to the course and discussion of syllabus
R Aug 24	Read Chapter 1 in Van Gelderen (VG) - Linguistic Knowledge Read "Do All Languages Have the Same Grammar?" (<i>Five-Minute Linguist</i> , Chapter 14) Complete Survey on Intuitive Linguistic Knowledge Introduction to categories
<u>Module Two</u>	(Aug 28-Sept 1)
T Aug 29	Read Chapter 2 in VG – Categories
R Aug 31	Categories continued Read Chapter 3.1-4 in VG – Phrases (pages 35-45) Introduction to phrases
<u>Module Three</u>	(Sept 4-8)
T Sept 5	Phrases and Tree Diagrams Read Chapter 3.5-6 in VG – Tree Diagrams
R Sept 7	Tree Diagrams continued
<u>Module Four</u>	(Sept 11-15)
T Sept 12	Tree Diagrams continued Group Presentation assigned
R Sept 14	Review of VG Chapters 1-3 to Prepare for the Quiz Groups for the presentation formed; topics chosen
<u>Module Five</u>	(Sept 19)
T Sept 19	Quiz #1
<u>Module Six</u>	(Sept 20-29)
R Sept 21	Q & A about the Quiz Meet with Group to Plan Presentation
T Sept 26	Group Presentations, Peer Evaluations
R Sept 28	Group Presentations, Peer Evaluations
<u>Module Seven</u>	(Oct 2-6)
T Oct 3	Read Chapter 4 in VG - Functions in the Sentence
R Oct 5	Read Chapter 5 in VG - More Functions, Prepositions and Particles
<u>Module Eight</u>	(Oct 9-13)
T Oct 10	Functions, Prepositions and Particles continued Review Chapters 4-5 to Prepare for Midterm
R Oct 12	Midterm Exam
<u>Module Nine</u>	(Oct 16-20)
T Oct 17	Q & A about Midterm Exam Read Chapter 6 in VG - Structure of the Verb Group
R Oct 19	Structure of the Verb Group continued
<u>Module Ten</u>	(Oct 23-27)
T Oct 24	Read Chapter 7 in VG – Finite Clauses Simple and Complex Sentences

R Oct 26 CP Node Variations and Functions

Module Eleven (Oct 30-Nov 3)

T Oct 31 Read Chapter 8 in VG - Nonfinite Clauses
Nonfinite Clauses and Complex Sentences

R Nov 2 Nonfinite Clauses continued

F Nov 3 Last day to withdraw with a W

Module Twelve (Nov 6-10)

T Nov 7 More Structure of the AdjP; Special Sentences
Review Chapters 6-8 in VG to Prepare for Quiz #2

R Nov 9 Quiz #2

Module Thirteen (Nov 13-17)

T Nov 14` Q & A about Quiz #2

Individual Presentation assigned

R Nov 16 Conferences and/or library research for Individual Presentation

Fall Recess (Nov 20-24)

Module Thirteen (continued Nov 27-Dec 5)

T Nov 28 Individual Presentations, Peer Evaluations

R Nov 30 Individual Presentations, Peer Evaluations

T Dec 5 Individual Presentations, Peer Evaluations

Module Fourteen (Dec 7)

R Dec 7 Review for Final

Final Exam Wed, Dec 13, 8-10 a.m.