

Eastern Illinois University

The Keep

Fall 2023

Fall 8-15-2023

ENG 2901-003 Structure of English

Melissa Caldwell

Eastern Illinois University

Follow this and additional works at: https://thekeep.eiu.edu/english_syllabi_fall2023

Recommended Citation

Caldwell, Melissa, "ENG 2901-003 Structure of English" (2023). *Fall 2023*. 42.
https://thekeep.eiu.edu/english_syllabi_fall2023/42

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by The Keep. It has been accepted for inclusion in Fall 2023 by an authorized administrator of The Keep. For more information, please contact tabruns@eiu.edu.

Structure of the English Language

English 2901 (3 credit hours)

Section 003/Fall 2023/ CH xxxx

Instructor: Dr. Melissa Caldwell

Email: mcaldwell@eiu.edu

Office: CH 3050

In Person or Online Student Hours: Mondays 9-10am, Fridays 11am – 1pm

Online Only Student Hours: Thursdays, 12-2pm and other times, by request

[Schedule Meeting via Calendly](#)

Required Textbooks

Van Gelderen, *An Introduction to the Grammar of English*, revised edition (VG)

Rickerson and Hilton (eds.), *The 5-Minute Linguist*, 2nd edition (5ML)

Course Description

In Structure of the English Language, we will closely examine the English language at the level of syntax—that is, how and why sentences are put together the way they are. In doing so, we will seek to better understand how English is constructed as a language. We will examine the so-called “rules” of grammar, but we will also think about why these rules exist, where they come from, and what it means when we don’t follow these rules in either written or oral expression. This course should be of interest to anyone interested in language and should be particularly useful if you are planning for a career in teaching, writing, or editing.

Learning Objectives

In this course, you will learn to:

- Employ concepts and technical terms related to grammar and linguistics
- Learn how to recognize various parts of speech, determine their function in a sentence, and represent them in diagramming
- Think about the relationship between the rules of grammar and everyday usage
- Be better able to make language choices in their own speech and writing based on style, form, purpose, and audience and/or to improve your ability to teach oral or written English

Course Requirements and Grade Distribution and Scale

1. Attendance and participation (10%)

Attendance is required for the course, and you should plan to attend every class meeting unless you are significantly ill and/or contagious and/or some other emergency comes up. Make-up privileges will be granted only for excused absences as defined by the University. Please read carefully the relevant passage from the Undergraduate Catalog: "Instructors will grant make-up privileges (when make-up is possible) to students for properly verified absences due to illness, emergency, or participation in an official University activity; and such absences will not militate against students in classes in which attendance is used directly in determining final grades. It is the student's responsibility to initiate plans for make-up work and to complete it promptly." If

you have a planned unexcused absence (like those for weddings, out-of-town doctor appointments, court dates, etc.) on the date of a test, please contact me in order to take the test in advance.

You are allowed a total of 3 unexcused absences before your grade will be affected. After your third unexcused absence, your participation grade will go down by 1 point per each additional absence. I also reserve the right to withhold extra credit opportunities from students who have over 4 absences.

Your participation grade will be based not just on class attendance. To receive credit for participating, you have to participate in the course. This means taking part in the daily activities and discussions of the course, asking questions when you have them, putting away all electronics and other distractions during class, and otherwise being actively present in the classroom during class time.

2. Homework (10%)

There will be regularly assigned homework each week. Homework assignments will be posted in D2L and will be timed and turned in via D2L Dropbox.

3. Practice quizzes (10%)

You will be given the opportunity to test your mastery of course material through weekly practice quizzes. These quizzes will be given via D2L.

4. Exams (40%)

There will be three exams in this class during the course of the semester in addition to a cumulative final exam. You will be given a practice exam via D2L and there will be an exam review day for each exam.

5. Group Presentation (10%)

In groups, you will research a topic related to language. You will turn in a group report on your findings and present what you have learned to the class.

6. Final Project (20%)

You will choose a topic related to language that is of interest to you and/or is relevant to your future career plans to investigate. More information on this project will become available later in the semester.

Grading Scale

A	90-100
B	80-89.9
C	70-79.9
D	60-69.9
F	Below 60

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to maintain principles of academic integrity and conduct as defined in EIU's Code of Conduct (<http://www.eiu.edu/judicial/studentconductcode.php>). Violations will be reported to the Office of Student Standards. The use of Chat GPT on assignments (oral, multimodal, and/or written) is prohibited in this course.

Plagiarism unequivocally will not be tolerated in this course. Plagiarism is defined as "The appropriation or imitation of the language, ideas, and/or thoughts of another author, and representation of them as one's own original work" (Random House Dictionary of the English Language). The English Department's policy on plagiarism states that any teacher who discovers an act of plagiarism has the right and responsibility to impose upon the guilty student an appropriate penalty, up to and including immediate assignments of a grade of F for the assigned essay and a grade of F for the course, and to report the incident to the Office of Student Standards. Respect for the work of others should encompass all formats, including print, electronic, and oral sources.

Student Resources

Students with Disabilities

If you are a student with a documented disability in need of accommodations to fully participate in this class, please contact the Office of Student Disability Services (OSDS). All accommodations must be approved through OSDS. Please stop by McAfee Gym, Room 1210, or call 217-581-6583 to make an appointment.

The Student Success Center and The Writing Center

Students who are having difficulty achieving their academic goals are encouraged to contact the Student Success Center (www.eiu.edu/~success) 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 Gym, Room 1301.

The Writing Center

This fall, the Writing Center will be offering **face-to-face consulting sessions on weekdays and online sessions evenings and Sundays**. Students will be able to book either a face-to-face or online appointment through the Writing Center website (www.eiu.edu/writing).

Resources for Well-Being

Transitioning to college can be a stressful time. EIU is committed to supporting and advancing the mental health and well-being of our students. If you are experiencing concerns, seeking help is a courageous thing to do for yourself and those who care about you. Below is a list of available campus resources to assist with student well-being:

- EIU Counseling Clinic: Human Services Building, 1st floor; 217-581-3413; for after-hours urgent support, call 1-866-567-2400. The Counseling Clinic offers individual and group counseling, emergency services, and resources.

- EIU Health Clinic: Human Services Building, 1st floor; 217-581-3013. The Health Clinic services include lab work, pharmacy, and women's health and men's health programs.
- Health Education Resource Center (HERC): 2201 Blair Hall; 217-581-7786. The HERC offers health programming in the areas of alcohol, tobacco and other drug prevention and education, flu and cold prevention and education, nutritional analysis and education, and sexual health education, in addition to other health-related topics.
- Center for Gender and Sexual Diversity (GSD): Stevenson Hall, lower level; 217-581-7117. The GSD Center provides services such as the Trans*formation Station, a large library full of books and movies, year-round programming, and a comprehensive Safe Zone Training program.
- EIU Campus Food Pantry: 1347 McAfee. The EIU Campus Food Pantry is a means to support students and the campus community by alleviating barriers to consistent, adequate, and healthful food. Anyone with a Panther Card can visit the pantry two times per month.
- Student Legal Service: MLK Jr University Union Room 2420; 217-581-6054. Student Legal Service can assist with off-campus housing issues, traffic violations, misdemeanor criminal offenses, municipal ordinance violations, and expungement.
- Financial Aid and Scholarships: Student Services Building East Wing; 217-581-6405, Fax: 217-581-6422, finaid@eiu.edu. The Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships provides information and guidance to secure the necessary financial resources to meet educational goals and financial obligations to the university.

Other Useful Information

Restrooms

The closest all-gender restroom to our class is on the 2nd floor of Coleman Hall, directly under the main English Dept. office. This restroom is newly designated as gender inclusive and has a lockable door and two stalls. Gendered restrooms are located on every floor in Coleman Hall. There is a map of gender-inclusive restrooms at EIU at <https://www.eiu.edu/lgbtqa/all-gender-restrooms.php>; please note that this map is not up-to-date, and the Coleman Hall restroom is not listed. It is, nonetheless, clearly labeled gender inclusive.

Electronic Writing Portfolio

EWP submissions for the fall 2022 semester are due by December 16. If your final class project is over 750 words (as is required), it may be a suitable document to submit. Please ask me if you plan to submit your project. It can be submitted here:

<https://www.eiu.edu/assess/ewpmain.php>

English Teacher Education Majors

Students seeking Teacher Certification in English Language Arts should request each of their English Department professors to complete the "Application for English Department Approval to Student Teach" before the end of the semester. This online evaluation form is available here: <https://www.eiu.edu/english/machform/view.php?id=19831>.