

Fall 8-15-2018

ENG 2901-003: Structure of English

Angela Vietto
Eastern Illinois University

Follow this and additional works at: https://thekeep.eiu.edu/english_syllabi_fall2018



Part of the [English Language and Literature Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Vietto, Angela, "ENG 2901-003: Structure of English" (2018). *Fall 2018*. 47.
https://thekeep.eiu.edu/english_syllabi_fall2018/47

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the 2018 at The Keep. It has been accepted for inclusion in Fall 2018 by an authorized administrator of The Keep. For more information, please contact tabruns@eiu.edu.

Structure of English

Prof. Angela Vietto, text: 217-549-3203 (*9 am to 9 pm only, please*), arvietto@eiu.edu

Office hours: 3341 Coleman Hall, M 9-11, W 3-4, F 1-2, and many other times by appointment

About the course: This course is an introduction to the grammar of English. “Grammar” is a word that means something different to professional students of language (called linguists) than it does to most others. So we will explore what grammar is and how linguists, teachers, editors, and the general public think about and use the concept of grammar. Over the course of the semester, the objectives of the course are for you to learn to

- describe and analyze how sentences are constructed in English, using diagramming and other ways of representing sentences to demonstrate your understanding
- employ concepts and vocabulary related to grammar and linguistics
- recognize and appreciate varieties of English
- use grammatical and linguistic knowledge to make careful choices in your own speech and writing and/or to improve your ability to teach oral or written English

For many of you, both the details of descriptive grammar and the approach to grammar that linguists take will be new. I hope it will be exciting, enlightening, and useful, too. This is to say: expect some surprises in this course, and keep your mind open.

Textbooks from TRS

van Gelderen, *An Introduction to the Grammar of English*, revised edition
Rickerson and Hilton (eds.), *The 5-Minute Linguist*, 2nd edition

Students with disabilities: If you have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accommodations, please contact the Office of Disability Services (581-6583) as soon as possible.

The Student Success Center: Students who are having difficulty achieving their academic goals are encouraged to contact the Student Success Center (<http://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 9th Street Hall, Room 1302.

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 Electronic Writing Portfolio: Any written project of 750 words or longer (excluding fiction or poetry) written for this class would be suitable for submission to the EWP. Submissions must be made by the last day of finals week at the end of the semester. *Earlier deadlines apply for graduating seniors.*

Attendance: I strongly encourage you to attend regularly. Most students find this a fairly challenging class, and our time together will be dedicated to developing deeper understanding—so regular attendance will generally be key to doing well. **Make-up privileges for in class activities will be granted *only* for excused, documented 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.” Remember, to be an excused absence, verification is required.

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, this problem may be dealt with by taking the test *in advance*.

Cell Phones & Other Distractions: Turn off your cell phone and put it away inside a book bag or purse before class begins (and of course take ear buds out or headphones off, too). Please don’t lay your phone on your desk “just in case.” If there’s an educational reason to get phones out, I’ll let you know.

If I observe that a student is ignoring this policy, I will give them one warning, in the form of a small card that the student should sign and return to me at the end of class. A second violation of the policy will result in the student being banned from exam re-takes and extra credit for the rest of the course.

English Teacher Education Majors: Students seeking Teacher Certification in English Language Arts should provide each of their English Department professors with a copy of the yellow form called “Application for English Department Approval to Student Teach” before the end of the semester. These forms are available in a rack outside the office of Dr. Melissa Ames (3821 Coleman Hall).

The English Department Statement on Plagiarism: Any teacher who discovers an act of plagiarism—“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*)—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.

Grading and Major Assignments*

Participation	15%
Homework and quizzes	15%
Test 1	10%
Test 2	10%
Test 3	10%
Idiolect Essay	10%
Analytic Project	15%
Final exam	15%

Final Grading Scale

A	90-100%
B	80-89.99%
C	70-79.99%
D	60-69.99%
F	59.99% and below

Participation: Participating fully in each class session will greatly enhance your ability to master the course material. What does full participation mean? It means showing up on time, giving 100% of your attention to class activities for 50 minutes, asking questions whenever you have them, treating classmates with respect, and taking part in all activities (including discussions, board work, group work, in-class writing) with good will. In short, *good participation means being an active learner.*

Homework: Homework is all designed to help you meet the course learning objectives and to help prepare you for the exams. Most homework assignments will be turned in on D2L; I will alert you when there are exceptions.

Quizzes: Quizzes will normally be taken in D2L (outside of class) and sometimes on paper, in class.

Analytic Project: We will discuss this project in more depth, and a detailed assignment sheet will be provided. The basics, though, are that in this project you will (a) select two related but different samples of English, (b) analyze samples of the grammatical structure of the texts you select, and (c) write a short essay presenting the results of that analysis and drawing conclusions based on your analysis.

Idiolect Essay: Again, we will discuss this project more fully later in the semester and a detailed assignment sheet will be provided. An “idiolect” is simply the variety of a language used by a single individual. After learning more about varieties of English, in this essay you will explore your own idiolect along with an in-depth consideration of the varieties of English that have influenced your speech and writing in English.

Tests 1, 2, 3: Prepare your best and do your best, but be aware that if you want to improve your grades, you will have the option of retaking these tests *within one week after the test is graded & returned.* (As long as you don’t lose this privilege by ignoring class policies.)

Final Exam: The final exam will be cumulative. Because it’s the final, there’s no retake option.

Schedule of Topics and Major Deadlines

Homework, online quizzes, and reading assignments will be announced in class and on D2L. Schedule is subject to change.

M Aug 20	Introduction: Ways of thinking about grammar
W Aug 22	Nouns, verbs
F Aug 24	Adjectives, adverbs
M Aug 27	Prepositions
W Aug 29	Determiners, auxiliaries
F Aug 31	Coordinators, complementizers
M Sept 3	<i>Labor Day—no class</i>
W Sept 5	Noun phrases and adjective phrases
F Sept 7	Verb phrases and adverb phrases
M Sept 10	Prepositional phrases
W Sept 12	Coordination and apposition
F Sept 14	<i>Test 1</i>
M Sept 17	Functions: subject and predicate
W Sept 19	Functions: complements (direct object, indirect object, predicate complement, subject complement)
F Sept 21	Complements continued, with transitivity
M Sept 24	Functions: adverbials (and prepositional and phrasal verbs)
W Sept 26	The verb group
F Sept 28	Finite clauses
M Oct 1	Non-finite clauses.
W Oct 3	Non-finite clauses continued.
F Oct 5	Clauses as part of NPs and AdjPs

M Oct 8	Clauses as part of NPs and AdjPs continued
W Oct 10	<i>Test 2</i>
F Oct 12	<i>Fall break—no classes</i>
M Oct 15	Varieties of English: Community and Power <i>Text selections for Analytic Project due</i>
W Oct 17	Varieties of English: Community and Power
F Oct 19	Varieties of English: Community and Power
M Oct 22 W Oct 24 F Oct 26	Varieties of English in Depth
M Oct 29 W Oct 31 F Nov 2	Varieties of English and Common Core Standards for Language
M Nov 5 W Nov 7 F Nov 9	<i>Idiolect essay due</i> (Mon Nov 5) Varieties of English and Common Core Standards for Language continued
M Nov 12	<i>Test 3</i>
W Nov 14	Using grammar to make stylistic choices
F Nov 16	Using grammar to make stylistic choices
Nov 19-23	<i>Thanksgiving break—no classes</i>
M Nov 26 W Nov 28 F Nov 30 M Dec 3	Grammar and style, creative writing, editing <i>Analytic project due</i> (Mon Dec 3)
W Dec 5	Review for final exam
F Dec 7	Review for final exam & course conclusion
W Dec 12 2:45-4:45	<i>Final Exam</i>