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### ENG 2901-001: Structure of English

Jad Smith

*Eastern Illinois University*

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Dr. Jad Smith  
jdsmith3@eiu.edu

Online Office Hours  
[Book an Appointment](#)

## Syllabus for English 2901.001: Structure of English, Spring 2021, CRN 30541

### Required Texts

*An Introduction to the Grammar of English*, revised edition, 2010, Elly van Gelderen  
*The Five-Minute Linguist*, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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:** a mid-term and a comprehensive final examination 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.

**Etymology Post:** you will write and post to our discussion board about the etymology of a word or phrase, or a group of words or phrases.

**Quizzes:** you will take at least two short quizzes covering material from Van Gelderen's *An Introduction to the Grammar of English*.

**Daily Assignments:** various types of homework such as viewing content in D2L and completing exercises or other individual or group activities. This work may be assigned on a day-to-day basis.

### Policies and Statements

**COVID-19 Practices and Expectations on EIU's Campus:** The University is asking all of us to take precautions to prevent the spread of COVID-19, including wearing face coverings while on campus. EIU's policy is intended to protect the on-campus community, as well as the larger community, your roommates, and our loved ones at home. **Students are expected to stay home (that is, not attend class) if they are ill.** Students with any Covid-19-like symptoms should call or visit the student health clinic for a consultation. Accommodations for make-up work will be made for students with documented medical absences according to IGP #43 [<https://castle.eiu.edu/auditing/043.php>].

EIU's COVID-19 campus practices include wearing face coverings that fully cover the nose and mouth, avoiding campus if sick, and engaging in social distancing. These practices—and others such as regularly sanitizing surfaces and washing hands—are based on the best available public health guidance. As a faculty member, I am responsible for ensuring that students engage in practices that reduce risk. If you are unable to follow EIU's COVID-19 guidelines, you will be asked to leave class. Compliance with public health guidance is essential and has been mandated by the University. You will not be allowed to enter or remain in the classroom without a mask. If you have a health condition that prevents you from wearing a mask, please contact Student Disability Services to document it and receive an accommodation. The only alternative to a mask is an approved face shield provided by Student Disability Services. If you are granted an accommodation, you should send me a digital copy of it before entering the classroom.

**Office Hours:** Because offices in the English department do not accommodate social distancing, the department has asked faculty to hold office hours online. My preference is to meet with you in Microsoft Teams (a videoconferencing tool in Office 365 that is provided to all EIU students and faculty), but we can work out other options, if necessary. To book an appointment during my office hours, simply click a [Book an Appointment](#) link on the syllabus or in D2L. Then, choose an appointment slot, enter your name and EIU email address, and note what you would like to discuss. When you submit your information, you will receive an email with a clickable “Join Teams Meeting” link that you can use at the time of your appointment. (If you intend to Join from a device other than a computer, you need to download the Teams app.) I will typically hold office hours on MW from 12-2:30 p.m., but if my availability for a given week changes, the change will be reflected on the booking page. If you are not able to book an appointment because all the appointments have been taken or because you are not available during my scheduled office hours, please get in touch with me.

**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:** Online work for the course that is posted in D2L should be completed by the stated deadline. Daily assignments, which comprise most of the work for the class, will typically be “open” for graded attempts for at least one week before the deadline. A narrower window of opportunity will be provided for quizzes and exams. Presentations should be completed in class on the scheduled presentation date for your sub-section of the class. If you feel unable to complete work for the class on time due to participation in an official university activity, you should provide me with documentation before the deadline and negotiate an extension. If you miss work 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 for the completion of the work. All work will be made-up or rescheduled at my discretion. Any rescheduled quiz or exam may differ substantially from the original.

**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

Mid-term and Final Exams	25% each
Group Presentation	15%
Etymology Post	5%
Quizzes and Daily Assignments	25%
Participation	5%

**Assessment:** I will provide assignment sheets for the presentation and etymology post. Your grades for these assignments will be determined by how well your work fulfills the requirements outlined in the assignment sheets. Daily assignments will typically count for 10 points. You will be allowed multiple attempts in D2L on most daily assignments, and your highest score will be recorded on the due date. Quizzes will count for 20 to 50 points each and be graded on the first attempt. Your “Quizzes and Daily Assignments” percentage grade will be determined by dividing your point total by the total number of points possible. Examinations will be graded on the first attempt. Your participation grade will be based on your level of engagement with content in D2L, your ability to work with your group on the presentation, and the regularity and quality of your contributions to class discussions during face-to-face or online meetings.

**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 in presentations. It is not acceptable to borrow the language and/or content of a website and use it as an “original” 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.

**The Office of Disability Services:** 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 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.

### Provisional Schedule

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

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

<u>Module One</u>	(Jan 11-15)
Before Class:	Review the Syllabus Read Chapter 1 in Van Gelderen (VG) - Linguistic Knowledge Complete Survey on Intuitive Linguistic Knowledge (in D2L) Read "Do All Languages Have the Same Grammar?" (Chapter 14 in <i>Five-Minute Linguist</i> )
During Class:	Discussion of syllabus, readings, and survey results Introduction to categories
T Jan 12	Tuesday Group Meets in the Classroom
R Jan 14	Thursday Group Meets in the Classroom
<u>Module Two</u>	(Jan 19-22)
Before Class:	Read Chapter 2 in VG – Categories Read Chapter 3.1-4 in VG – Phrases (pages 35-45) View the Narrated PowerPoint on Categories and Criteria (D2L) Complete the Review on Categories and Criteria (D2L)
During class:	Q & A about Material Covered Online Pronouns, Grammatical Categories, Language Change Introduction to Phrases
T Jan 19	Tuesday Group Meets in the Classroom
R Jan 21	Thursday Group Meets in the Classroom
<u>Module Three</u>	(Jan 25-29)
Before Class:	Read Chapter 3.5-6 in VG – Tree Diagrams View Narrated PPT on Phrase Structure and Tree Diagrams (D2L) Complete the Review on Phrase Structure and Tree Diagrams (D2L)
During Class:	Q & A about Material Covered Online Practice Tree Diagrams Review of VG Chapters 1-3 to Prepare for the Quiz
T Jan 26	Tuesday Group Meets in the Classroom
R Jan 28	Thursday Group Meets in the Classroom
<u>Module Four</u>	(Feb 1-5 – Class Is Online)
T Feb 2	Personal Wellness Day (no class)
R Feb 3	Take Quiz #1 Online in D2L
<u>Module Five</u>	(Feb 8-12)
Before Class:	Read over Group Presentation Assignment
During Class:	Q & A about the Quiz Group Presentation Assigned / Groups Formed
T Feb 9	Tuesday Group Meets in the Classroom
R Feb 11	Thursday Group Meets in the Classroom
<u>Module Six</u>	(Feb 15-19)
Before Class:	Meet Online with Group to Plan and Complete Presentation
During Class:	Group Presentations (Socially Distanced in Classroom)
T Feb 16	Tuesday Group Meets in the Classroom
R Feb 18	Thursday Group Meets in the Classroom

<u>Module Seven</u>	(Feb 22-26)
Before Class:	Read Chapter 4 in VG - Functions in the Sentence
During Class:	Q & A about Online Material Practice Identifying Various Functions
T Feb 23	Tuesday Group Meets in the Classroom
R Feb 25	Thursday Group Meets in the Classroom
<u>Module Eight</u>	(Mar 1-5)
Before Class:	Read Chapter 5 in VG - More Functions, Prepositions and Particles
During Class:	Q & A about Material Covered Online Practice Identifying Various Functions Review Chapters 4-5 to Prepare for Midterm
T Mar 2	Tuesday Group Meets in the Classroom
R Mar 4	Thursday Group Meets in the Classroom
<u>Midterm Exam</u>	(Mar 9)
T Mar 9	Take Midterm Examination Online in D2L
<u>Module Nine</u>	(Mar 11-16)
Before Class:	Read Chapter 6 in VG - Structure of the Verb Group
During Class:	Q & A about Material Covered Online Structure of the Verb Group
R Mar 11	Thursday Group Meets in the Classroom
T Mar 16	Tuesday Group Meets in the Classroom
R Mar 18	Personal Wellness Day (no class)
<u>Module Ten</u>	(Mar 22-26)
Before Class:	Read Chapter 7 in VG – Finite Clauses
During Class:	Q & A about Midterm Examination Q & A about Material Covered Online Simple and Complex Sentences CP Node Variations and Functions
T Mar 23	Tuesday Group Meets in the Classroom
R Mar 25	Thursday Group Meets in the Classroom
<u>Module Eleven</u>	(Mar 29-Apr 2)
Before Class:	Read Chapter 8 in VG - Non-Finite Clauses
During Class:	Q & A about Material Covered Online Complex Sentences and Nonfinite Clauses Review Chapters 6-8 in VG to Prepare for Quiz #2
T Mar 30	Tuesday Group Meets in the Classroom
R Apr 1	Thursday Group Meets in the Classroom
F Apr 2	Last day to withdraw with a W
<u>Module Twelve</u>	(Apr 5-9)
Before Class:	Take Quiz #2 Online in D2L
During Class:	Q & A about Quiz #2 Nonfinite Clauses and Functions
T Apr 6	Tuesday Group Meets in the Classroom
R Apr 8	Thursday Group Meets in the Classroom

Module Thirteen (Apr 12-16)

Before Class: Read Excerpts from VG - Chapters 9, 10, and 11

During Class: Etymology Post Assigned  
Structure of AdjP; Clauses as Parts of NPs and AdjPs; Special Sentences

T Apr 13 Tuesday Group Meets in the Classroom

R Apr 15 Thursday Group Meets in the Classroom

Module Fourteen (April 19-23 – Class Is Online)

T Apr 20 Place Etymology Post in Discussion Thread

R Apr 22 Personal Wellness Day (no class)

F Apr 23 Response to an Etymology Post Due

Module Fifteen (Apr 26-30)

Before Class: Do the Online Review for the Final

During Class: Q & A about Online Review for Final  
Additional In-Class Review for the Final Exam

T Apr 27 Tuesday Group Meets in the Classroom

R Apr 29 Thursday Group Meets in the Classroom

Final Exam (Wednesday, May 5, 8-10 a.m.)