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### ENG 2901-001: Structure of English

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*Eastern Illinois University*

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Dr. Jad Smith  
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Office Hours  
[Book an Appointment](#)

## Syllabus for English 2901.001: Structure of English, FA 2021, CRN 91233

### 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.

**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 quizzes covering material from Van Gelderen's *Introduction to the Grammar of English*.

**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 Practices and Expectations on EIU's Campus:** The University is asking all of us to take precautions to prevent the spread of COVID-19. EIU's policy is intended to protect the campus community, as well as the larger community, your roommates, and our loved ones at home. **All students, regardless of vaccination status, are required to wear face coverings during class.** Students may sit in any classroom seat where they are most comfortable. All reasonable efforts will be made to provide modifications to classroom seating arrangements, if needed; however, this may not be possible in all situations. **Students should not attend class if they are ill and should consult the student health clinic if they have any Covid19-like symptoms.** Everyone in the campus community is responsible for following practices that reduce risk. If you have a health condition that may require a potential classroom accommodation or variation from current EIU COVID-19 policy, please contact Student Disability Services ([studentdisability@eiu.edu](mailto:studentdisability@eiu.edu) or 581-6583) to determine what options may be available based on current CDC guidance. If you are unable to follow EIU's COVID-19 guidelines, you may be asked to leave class or office hours as compliance with public health guidance is essential. Accommodations for instruction and make-up work will be made for students with documented medical absences according to IGP #43 [ <https://castle.eiu.edu/auditing/043.php>]. To view the latest EIU COVID-19 related information and any policy updates, please visit <https://www.eiu.edu/covid/>.

**Office Hours:** This semester, I will hold office hours in-person or online in MS Teams, according to your individual preferences. To book an appointment during my office hours, click the [Book an Appointment](#) link on the syllabus or in D2L, choose an available time, indicate whether you prefer to meet in-person or online, and submit. Walk-ins are welcome, but priority for appointments will be given to students who have booked in advance. I will typically hold office hours on TR 10:45-12:15 and W 2-3. If my availability during a given week changes, the change will be reflected on the booking page.

**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, or on assignment sheets. 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 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 for the completion of any missed work. Any daily work left outstanding for longer than two weeks from the original due date will be recorded as a zero. Quizzes and exams will be rescheduled only in the case of an excused absence. 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

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. 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 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. 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.

### Provisional Schedule

Each week, look at the 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 23-27)
T Aug 24	Introduction to the course and discussion of syllabus
R Aug 26	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 30-Sept 3)
T Aug 31	Read Chapter 2 in VG – Categories
R Sept 2	Categories Continued Read Chapter 3.1-4 in VG – Phrases (pages 35-45) Introduction to Phrases
<u>Module Three</u>	(Sept 6-10)
T Sept 7	Phrases and Tree Diagrams Read Chapter 3.5-6 in VG – Tree Diagrams
R Sept 9	Tree Diagrams continued
<u>Module Four</u>	(Sept 13-17)
T Sept 14	Tree Diagrams continued
R Sept 16	Review of VG Chapters 1-3 to Prepare for the Quiz Group Presentation Assigned
<u>Module Five</u>	(Sept 20-24)
T Sept 21	Quiz #1
R Sept 23	Q & A about the Quiz Meet with Group to Plan Presentation
<u>Module Six</u>	(Sept 27-Oct 1)
T Sept 28	Group Presentations, Peer Evaluations
R Sept 30	Group Presentations, Peer Evaluations
<u>Module Seven</u>	(Oct 4-8)
T Oct 5	Read Chapter 4 in VG - Functions in the Sentence
R Oct 7	Read Chapter 5 in VG - More Functions, Prepositions and Particles
<u>Module Eight</u>	(Oct 11-15)
T Oct 12	Functions, Prepositions and Particles continued Review Chapters 4-5 to Prepare for Midterm
R Oct 14	Midterm Exam
<u>Module Nine</u>	(Oct 18-22)
T Oct 19	Q & A about Midterm Exam Read Chapter 6 in VG - Structure of the Verb Group
R Oct 21	Structure of the Verb Group continued
<u>Module Ten</u>	(Oct 25-29)
T Oct 26	Read Chapter 7 in VG – Finite Clauses Simple and Complex Sentences
R Oct 28	CP Node Variations and Functions

<u>Module Eleven</u>	(Nov 1-5)
T Nov 2	Read Chapter 8 in VG - Non-Finite Clauses
R Nov 4	Complex Sentences and Nonfinite Clauses Nonfinite Clauses and Functions
F Nov 5	Last day to withdraw with a W
<u>Module Twelve</u>	(Nov 8-12)
T Nov 9	Structure of AdjP; Clauses as Parts of NPs and AdjPs; Special Sentences Review Chapters 6-8 in VG to Prepare for Quiz #2
R Nov 11	Quiz #2
<u>Module Thirteen</u>	(Nov 15-19)
T Nov 16	Q & A about Quiz #2 Individual Presentation Assigned
R Nov 18	Research for Individual Presentation
<u>Fall Recess</u>	(Nov 22-26)
<u>Module Fourteen</u>	(Nov 29-Dec 3)
T Nov 30	Individual Presentations, Peer Evaluations
R Dec 2	Individual Presentations, Peer Evaluations
<u>Module Fifteen</u>	(Dec 6-10)
T Dec 7	Individual Presentations, Peer Evaluations
R Dec 9	Review for Final
<u>Final Exam</u>	Wednesday, Dec. 15, 8:00-10:00 a.m.