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ENG 2901-003: Structure of English

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Eastern Illinois University

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Structure of the English Language
English 2901 (3 credit hours)
Section 003/Fall 2021/10:00 – 10:50am, CH 3170

Instructor: Dr. Melissa Caldwell

Email: mcaldwell@eiu.edu

Office: CH 3050

Office Hours (virtual): MTWF 1:00-2:00, and by appointment

Sign up: <https://calendly.com/mcaldwelleiu/fall-2021-office-hours>

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 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. Please come to our virtual meetings without distractions and use the same etiquette you would practice in a face-to-face setting.

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 language “myth” or controversy. You will turn in a group report on your findings and present what you have learned to the class.

6. Final Project and Presentation (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.

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).

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. These forms are available in a rack outside the office of Dr. Melissa Ames (CH 3821) and online: <https://www.eiu.edu/english/machform/view.php?id=19831>.

Mental Health

Transitioning to college can be a stressful time. The EIU Counselling Center offers individual and group services to help students manage stress, anxiety, depression, and other mental health concerns. You can find more information at <https://www.eiu.edu/counsetr/appointments.php>.

Covid-19 Practices & Expectations (from the Office of the Provost)

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 COVID-19-like symptoms. EIU's COVID-19 campus practices including face coverings, when and where required, avoiding campus if sick, sanitizing surfaces, social distancing, and hand washing all of which are based on the best available public health guidance. 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 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. To view the latest EIU COVID-19 related information and any policy updates, please visit <https://www.eiu.edu/covid/>.

Tentative Course Schedule*

This is a general overview of the progress of the course. It is more important to me that you understand the concepts being taught than that we adhere to a schedule. Hence, I may—and likely will—make changes to the pace of the course, homework assignments, etc. throughout the semester as needed. These changes will be conveyed in class and/or via D2L.

Dates	Concepts Covered on this date	Reading to be read by class on this date	Homework to be completed by the beginning of class on this date
M 8/23	Course Introduction: Why study the structure of English?; Grammar vs. Linguistics; descriptive vs. prescriptive grammar	VG, ch. 1	HW as posted on D2L in START HERE and Week 1
W 8/25	Lexical Categories: Nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs (VG 2.1.1-2.1.2)	VG, ch. 2	
F 8/27	Characteristics of Words: Morphology	Morphology reading on D2L	HW 1
M 8/30	Lexical Categories: Prepositions (VG 2.1.3)	5ML, ch. 1	HW 2
W 9/1	Grammatical Categories: Determiners, auxiliaries (VG 2.2.1)		HW 3 Practice quiz 1
F 9/3	Grammatical Categories: Coordinators, complementizers (VG 2.2.3)		Practice quiz 2
M 9/6	Labor Day—No Class		
W 9/8	Noun phrases and adjective phrases (VG 3.1 - 3.2.1)	VG, ch. 3	HW 4
F 9/10	Verb phrases and adverb phrases (VG 3.2.1 - 3.2.2)		Practice quiz 3
M 9/13	Prepositional phrases (VG 3.3). HW 5: Self-assessment (to be done in class).		HW 5
W 9/15	In class work on trees; coordination and apposition (VG 3.4)		HW 6
F 9/17	In class work on trees		Take practice exam on D2L

M 9/20	Review for exam 1		Read and write a response to at 2 of the chapters in the 5ML listed on the Group Presentation assignment. Turn responses in by Tuesday at 5pm.
W 9/22	Exam 1		
F 9/24	Groups assigned in class. Begin group project work.		
M 9/27	Group project work: Library day.		
W 9/29	Group project work in class.		Meet to work on group project as needed.
F 10/1	Group project presentations in class		One person in group submits Project Outline and Bibliography via D2L Dropbox.
M 10/4	Group project presentations in class		
W 10/6	Introduction to Functions	VG, ch. 4	
F 10/8	Subject and predicate (VG 4.1) Complements 1: direct object and indirect object.		
M 10/11	Complements 2: predicate complement, subject complement (VG 4.2) Complements continued (VG 4.2-4.4)		HW 7
W 10/13	Functions: Adverbials, prepositional and phrasal verbs (VG 5.1-5.3)	VG, ch. 5	HW 8 (Functions worksheet)
F 10/15	Fall Break—No Class		Practice quiz 4

M 10/18	Functions		
W 10/20	Functions		Practice quiz 5
F 10/22	The Verb Group	VG, ch. 6	HW 9 (Functions Worksheet)
M 10/25	The Verb Group Begin Exam 2 Review		HW 10 (Verb Group Worksheet). Practice quiz 6
W 10/27	Exam Review		Take practice exam
F 10/29	Exam 2		
M 11/1	Finite clauses	VG, ch. 7	Submit 150-word abstract for final project to Dr. Caldwell by midnight via D2L Dropbox
W 11/3	Finite clauses		
F 11/5	Finite clauses		
M 11/8	Non-finite clauses	VG, ch. 8	Practice quiz 7
W 11/10	Non-finite clauses		
F 11/12	Practice with finite vs. non-finite clauses		Practice Quiz 8
M 11/15	Structure of the PP, AdjP, AdvP, and the NP	VG, ch. 9	
W 11/17	In-Class exam review		Take practice exam
F 11/19	Exam 3		
Thanksgiving Break (11/22-11/28)			

M 11/29	Clauses as Parts of NPs and AdjPs	VG, ch. 10	
W 12/1	Special Sentences	VG, ch. 11	
F 12/3	Preparation for Final Project Presentations		
M 12/6	Final Project Presentations		Final Project due via D2L Dropbox.
W 12/8	Final Project Presentations		
F 12/10	Class Evaluations, Final Exam review		

Final Exam: Tuesday, December 14th, 10:15am - 12:15pm