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ENG 2901-600: Structure of English

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Structure of the English Language
English 2901 (3 credit hours)
Section 600/Fall 2021/11:00am – 11:50am, Online Synchronous

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%)

This is an online synchronous course, which means that every week we will meet altogether online using a Zoom platform. Unlike an asynchronous course, you are expected to attend course meetings just as you would an in person course. As such, 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 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/counsctr/appointments.php>.