Dr. Timothy A. Shonk
Email: tashonk@eiu.edu

Office: CH 3060
Hours: MW 5:00-6:00 and by appt.

Texts:

*Rhetorical Grammar, 4th ed.*, Kolln
*The Sense of Structure*, Gopen

Course Requirements:

- Short Writing Assignments 40%
- Midterm Exam 15%
- Final Paper 25%
- Final Exam 20%

Goals of the Course:

The primary goal of the course is to meld grammatical principles with the development of a personal style by understanding the effects our grammatical choices make in our expressions. As Kolln puts it, the focus will be the rhetorical effects of grammatical choices. In the course of this investigation, we will learn some of the fallacies of prescriptivism, the methods by which a knowledge of grammatical forms helps us to develop a clear and powerful voice, the rhetorical effects of punctuation, and the means of varying sentence patterns, rhythms, and points of emphasis for a more mature and effective style. In sum, we will apply the basic knowledge of grammar we carry with us to our own writing. We will do so with an eye toward understanding and manipulating the rhetorical effects of our writing upon our readers by means of our grammatical.
English 5091  
Tentative Course Syllabus  
Summer 2014  
Shonk

June 16  Introduction to the course, diagnostic exercises and discussions

18  “Complexity of the Sentence,” (Gopen 3-13); Patterns of English Sentences; “Structure” (Kolln 5-25)

23  “Cohesion” (Kolln 26-46);  
    **in-class writing exercise**

25  “Structural Anatomy” and “Bad Advice“ (Gopen 14-46 and 149-53)

30  “Sentence Rhythm” (Kolln 47-63)

July 2  “Writer’s Voice” (Kolln 64-82); “Coordination” (Kolln 97-126)

7  “Brevity and Subordination” Kolln 112-26)

9  “Choosing Verbs” and “Choosing Adverbials” (Kolln 136-44 and 146-63)

14  **MIDTERM EXAM**: “Choosing Adjectival” (Kolln 164-92)

16  “Choosing Appositives and Absolutes” (Kolln 196-212)

21  “Choosing Stylistic Variation” (Kolln 213-29;  “Weights and Balances” (Gopen 47-80);  
    **Writing Exercise Due**

23  “Whose Paragraph” (Gopen 126-43)

28  “Mark My Words” (Gopen 157-90, 206-32)

30  **In-class writing exercise** and review of punctuation effects

Aug. 4  “Punctuation” (Kolln 271-82)  
    **Deadline for Final Paper**

6  **Final Exam**