ENG 2901-001: Structure of English

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Purpose and Objectives of the Course
In this class students will analyze the rules that govern the English grammatical system. They will develop a deeper understanding of the systematic nature of language. By the end of the course they will be able to comprehend the major differences between traditional, structural, and transformational approaches to grammar, identify sentence patterns and their expansions, and understand verb tense, aspect, voice, and modality. There will be several tests throughout the semester, a final exam, a short paper, and a presentation on grammar.

Course Objectives
This semester, students will learn to do the following:
1. Identify parts of speech and their functions
2. Understand basic sentence structure through the use of tree diagrams
3. Employ concepts and technical terms related to grammar and linguistics
4. Recognize and appreciate varieties of English

Catalog Description of the Course
An introduction to the English language: its phonology and word forms, the parts of speech and their functions, basic sentence structures and their representation, stylistic patterns, standard and nonstandard dialects, viewed according to traditional and modern grammars.

Books and Materials
An Introduction to the Grammar of English by Elly van Gelderen
The 5-Minute Linguist by Rickerson/Hilton

Requirements
1. Four tests covering chapters in the book
2. A short essay about a topic in linguistics of interest to you
3. A 5-7 minute presentation about teaching grammar
4. A final exam
5. Participation in class discussions and exercises
6. Attendance

Attendance
The course covers a lot of new material at a fairly quick pace. Regular attendance and good note-taking skills significantly increase your chances of an acceptable grade. I do allow for excused absences if they are properly documented. These include approved university activities and documented illness. Unexcused absences are pretty much all others—oversleeping, finishing papers for other classes, out-of-town trips that are not school related. Every unexcused absence will lower your attendance grade by 20 points.
If you are absent on a TEST day and let me know beforehand, you may take the test upon your return. NOTE: All test absences must be excused absences. If you miss class on a regular basis, please do not come to my office and ask me to explain what you’ve missed. Office hours are for those students who attend class and need further clarification of concepts.

Grade Breakdown

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Test 1</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>901-1000 points</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Test 2</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>801-900 points</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Test 3</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>701-800 points</td>
<td>C</td>
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<tr>
<td>Test 4</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>601-700 points</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>below 600</td>
<td>failure of course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Short paper on one of the issues discussed in class</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>points</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presentation on teaching grammar</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>points</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>100</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attendance</td>
<td>100</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL** 1000 points

University Policies

(1) 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.

(2) 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 Ninth Street Hall, Room 2006, or call 217-581-6583.

(3) The Student Success 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 9th Street Hall, Room 1302.

CLASS SCHEDULE

**#1**
- **T 08/23** Introductions
- **TH 08/25** Discussion of Chapters 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 from the 5-Minute Linguist

**#2**
- **T 08/30** Discussion of Chapter 1 in the grammar book; Discussion of Chapters 13, 14, and 15 in the 5-Minute Linguist
- **TH 09/01** Discussion of Chapters 19, 25, 38, 39

**#3**
- **T 09/06** Discussion of Chapter 2 in the grammar book
- **TH 09/08** Discussion of Chapter 3 in the grammar book
#4  T  09/13  Review of Chapters 1, 2, and 3
    TH  09/15  Test on Chapters 1, 2, and 3

#5  T  09/20  Discussion of Chapter 4 in the grammar book
    TH  09/22  Discussion of Chapter 5 in grammar book

#6  T  09/27  Chapter 5 discussion continued; Begin discussion of Chapter 6
    TH  09/29  Discussion of Chapter 6 in grammar book
            Short essay due

#7  T  10/04  Review of Chapters 4, 5, and 6
    TH  10/06  Test on Chapters 4, 5, and 6

#8  T  10/11  Discussion of Chapter 7 in grammar book
    TH  10/13  Continuation of discussion of Chapter 7

#9  T  10/18  Discussion of Chapter 8
    TH  10/20  Continuation of discussion of Chapter 8

#10 T  10/25  Review of Chapters 7 and 8
      TH  10/27  Test on Chapter 7 and 8

#11 T  11/01  Discussion of Chapter 9 in grammar book
      TH  11/03  Continuation of Chapter 9

#12 T  11/08  Discussion of Chapter 10
      TH  11/10  Discussion of Chapter 11

#13 T  11/15  Review of Chapters 9, 10, and 11
      TH  11/17  Test on Chapters 9, 10, and 11

THANKSGIVING BREAK WEEK

#14 T  11/29  Presentations
      TH  12/01  Presentations

#15 T  12/06  Presentations
      TH  12/08  Presentations
            Review for Final

FINAL EXAM    Wednesday, December 14th, 8:00am to 10am in our regular classroom

NOTE: I may make changes to this syllabus in order to suit the needs of the class.
Changes will always be announced in advance.