ENG 2901-001: Structures of English

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Text: Kolln and Funk, *Understanding English Grammar*

The Course: As I teach it, English 2901, Structures of English, develops from several perspectives within modern linguistics, especially transformational-generative and verb-driving theories. I use relatively little of the prescriptive-proscriptive grammar you might be used to from K-12. This course may well be quite different from any "English" class you have ever taken. I will introduce you to other ways of looking at English structural grammar -- the ways we put sentences together from early childhood. This course is full of ideas about language in general and English sentence structure in particular. THERE ARE LOTS AND LOTS OF TERMS. YOU HAVE TO LEARN THEM!!! YOU WILL HAVE TO PREPARE CAREFULLY AND THOROUGHLY FOR EACH CLASS!!!

Attendance: Now, because of the relative complexity of the course material, you need to attend class regularly. However, I do NOT count attendance in computation of the final grade. Most of the time, I likely will not bother to take attendance. I did not take any of you on to raise, so you'll have to make your own decisions regarding class attendance. Frankly, a few students do well studying the text on their own, showing up for exams, and scoring well. Maybe you are one of these gifted students. Do you feel lucky?

Grades: There will be three unit exams worth 20% each, and the final worth 30%. The remaining 10% will be added to the value of whichever of your exams is the highest. If your highest grade occurs on the final, then your final would be worth 40%. There will be ten bonus points on unit exam #3 and 20 bonus points on the final. I compute these bonus points into the final total AFTER I add 10% to the value of your highest score. Frankly, the 10% deal and the bonus points are incentives. I'll bet that you might be glad of them this fall.

When you have questions during class, please ask them. If a question occurs to you while you prepare for class, note it and ask it. I will be happy to help with course problems during office hours. Confusion regarding course material tends to grow. Don't let it.