

Classroom Format: Every class session will consist of interactive lectures, student presentations, discussions, and other group activities.

Pedagogical English Grammar

Fall/Winter Term, 2016-2017

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Course Description:

This course provides an introduction to fundamental aspects of the grammatical system of English from a linguistic perspective. The purpose is to help students develop a common vocabulary for talking about grammatical phenomena as well as understanding the relationships among them.

Course Objectives:

At the end of this course, student will:

- Be able to identify the grammatical category of lexical items and apply tests to identify members of major categories;
- Understand that grammatical categories in practice can be contextual and fluid;
- Be able to identify major phrasal units of English sentences and show their relationships to one another in sentences;
- Be able to identify the grammatical functions of constituents in a sentence;
- Have a basic understanding of the grammatical aspects of the verb system of English, including tense, aspect, mood, and voice, and how they are represented in the verb phrase;
- Be able to identify semantic roles of arguments in a sentence and relate these to grammatical functions;
- Be able to identify clauses in sentences, and distinguish finite and non-finite clauses;
- Be able to identify different sentence types (Simple, Complex, and Coordinated) and indicate the factors that allow their identification
- Understand the difference between complements and modifiers and be able to identify them in sentences.

Textbook:

van Gelderen, E. (2010). *An introduction to the grammar of English* (2nd Ed.). Philadelphia, USA: John Benjamins (ISBN: 9789027211682)

Available for order from the publisher at:

<https://benjamins.com/#catalog/books/z.153/main>; also on [amazon.co.jp](https://www.amazon.com)

Course Requirements:

There are three sources for evaluation in this course:

Tests (4 x 10% each; 40% total): Each meeting of this class after the initial meeting will begin with a test on material that was covered in the previous class meeting and which the required readings for that class also cover*. The items in the test will resemble those in the exercises at the end of each chapter in the required textbook.

On-line Discussion (30%): Each week from the first week of the class, I will pose a question that is relevant to the areas of grammar being covered for discussion. This may include some examples that stretch what is discussed in class and in the book or a pedagogical question regarding the grammar issue being looked at.

One student will be designated as the starter for discussion each week, whose job it will be to make the first post responding to the question. Another student will be designated as the wrapper, whose job it will be to make a final post at the end of the week, summarizing the discussion. Each student will be expected to make at least two substantive posts each week. Guidelines for how to post effectively will be distributed by the instructor.

Grammar Jamboree Presentation (30%): Following the test in our final class meeting, we will hold a Grammar Jamboree, student presentations on aspects of grammar beyond what is covered in class, as investigated by you, the students. We will discuss the exact nature of the presentations and other requirements for the Jamboree on the first day of class.

* This indicates how the class is structured. In each class session, I will go over material to be covered in the readings that are assigned for the next class. So, you can think of each class meeting as a preview of the readings. I will also cover some things that are not in the readings that I think are relevant, and which also may be covered in the tests.

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Course Calendar:

There are five meetings of this class over the course of the semester:

Oct 1:

Introduction to the course

Ambiguity

Lexical Categories

Phrase Structure

Oct 29:

Test on Units 1 - 3

Grammatical Functions

Semantic (Thematic) Roles

Argument Structure

Theme-Rheme Structure

Nov 19:

Test on Units 4 - 5

Verb Phrase Elements Structure

Tense, Aspect, Mood, and Voice

Finite and Non-Finite Clauses

Sentence Types: Simple, Complex, and Coordinated

Dec 10:

Test on Units 6 - 8

A deeper look at the structure Noun, Prepositional, Adjective, and Adverb Phrases

Relative Clauses

Issues of Question Structure and Negation

Other sentence types

Jan 7:

Test on Units 9 - 11

Grammar Jamboree!!!