



## ENG 501: Structure of the English Language

### Spring 2013, T 7:20–10pm, BA 244

**Instructor:** Christian F. Hempelmann, Ph.D.

**Office:** Hall of Languages 226

**Office Hours:**

online workdays 10am–10pm

office R 2–4pm

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### COURSE INFORMATION

#### Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings:

*Required textbooks:*

- Baugh, Albert C. and Thomas Cable. 2012. *A History of the English Language*. 6th Ed. Pearson. [5th Ed. also acceptable]
- Greenbaum, Sidney and Randolph Quirk. 1990. *A Student's Grammar of the English Language*. Longman

*Optional additional reading:*

- Further materials will be made available online.

#### Course Description

*Catalog*

A thorough analysis of the grammatical structure of English employing contemporary as well as more traditional methodologies. Emphasis varies among phonology, morphology, syntax, text/discourse analysis and historical developments in the language.

#### *This Course*

In this course we will focus on how the structure of English became what it is today in relation to its “ancestors” and “relatives” as well as how it functions today as a specific incarnation of a human language. One central approach is thus historical, tracing both how English developed in England and then as one of the big survivors of colonialist languages and a main lingua franca of the world. The other perspective is on the English language as a linguistic system with an emphasis on syntax.

#### Course Objectives

1. Students will become active participants in the course, not only in staying current with readings and other assignments, but in sharing their understanding of the material as assessed by written reading responses, homework and in-class exercises, and participation in discussions.
2. Students will become familiar with basic concepts in the structure of English through readings from the textbooks as well as current research in the field as assessed by reading responses summarizing and critically assessing the concepts.

3. Students will develop and apply knowledge in the structure of English in homework and in-class exercises.
4. Students will be able to write and present issues in the structure of English in an informed and critical way, in particular an assigned presentation on a topic selected in coordination with the instructor and pertaining to the course.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

### Instructional Methods, Activities, and Assessments

This course consists of a series of activities and assessments to assist you in achieving the outcomes and objectives of this course and instructional units/modules. By the end of this course the class will have read the textbooks and additional materials. The class will have discussed the readings, applied them in exercises responded to them in discussions and in writing, and researched an issue in depth so as to be able to give a class presentation.

### Midterm and Final

Student progress will also be assessed through a midterm and a final exam.

### Student Learning Outcome #1

Students will demonstrate their ability to synthesize ideas pertaining to the course as measured by a review of critical responses and exercises from the students.

### Student Learning Outcome #2

Students will conduct research on an assigned topic and will present the findings of their research to the class through a presentation. The presentation should be delivered on the assigned date and should include the following elements:

- a substantial overview;
- a handout including a reference list (enumerative bibliography, discography, etc.);
- any additional relevant information that is appropriate to the topic.

**Student Learning Outcome #3:** Students will demonstrate their understanding of ideas pertaining to the course as measured by a review of each student's presentation on an assigned topic.

### Grading

Assignment and course grades will be determined by the student's performance on the following assignments:

- Critical response papers and exercises: 30% of total course grade
- Midterm and final exam: 30% of the total course grade
- Final presentation: 20% of total course grade
- Participation: 20% of total course grade

*There will be no extra credit assignments. As a rule, I do not accept late work.*

### Scale used to compute final letter grades:

- A: 100-90  
B: 89-80  
C: 79-70  
D: 69-60  
F: 59-0

## **COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES**

### **Course Specific Procedures:**

#### **Academic Honesty Policy**

Texas A&M University-Commerce does not tolerate **plagiarism** and other forms of **academic dishonesty**. Conduct that violates generally accepted standards of academic honesty is defined as academic dishonesty. "Academic dishonesty" includes, but is not limited to, plagiarism (the appropriation or stealing of the ideas or words of another person and passing them off as one's own), cheating on exams or other course assignments, collusion (the unauthorized collaboration with others in preparing course assignments), and abuse (destruction, defacing, or removal) of resource material. Instructors uphold and support the highest academic standards, and students are expected to do likewise. Penalties for students guilty of academic dishonesty include disciplinary probation, suspension and expulsion (Texas A&M University-Commerce Code of Student Conduct 5.b[1, 2, 3]). Cheating, including plagiarizing papers in whole or part, will result in a grade of zero (0) on the assignment for the first offense and failure of the course for any subsequent offenses.

#### **Attendance Policy**

Because your active participation in discussions is expected, attendance is vital for success in this course. Attendance requires more than simply coming to class.

#### **Assignment Policy**

I will provide specific details during class meetings and possibly by email. Students must stay current with all readings and discussions. Students must complete and submit all assignments by their respective due dates.

#### **Late Work**

I will not accept any assignment after its due date. Assignments submitted after the due date may receive a score of zero (0).

#### **Drop a Course**

A student may drop a course by logging into his/her myLEO account and clicking on the hyperlink labeled "Drop a class" from among the choices found under the myLeo section of the Web page.

#### **Incompletes**

Incompletes (grade of "X") are granted only under rare and extraordinary circumstances.

#### **Administrative Withdrawal**

I reserve the right to drop a student from the course administratively for excessive absences or violations of student conduct codes.

#### **Email**

Students are expected to check their TAMUC email at least once a day.



### **University Specific Procedures:**

#### **ADA Statement**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

**Office of Student Disability Resources and Services**

**Texas A&M University-Commerce**

**Gee Library 132**

**Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835**

**Fax (903) 468-8148**

[StudentDisabilityServices@tamu-commerce.edu](mailto:StudentDisabilityServices@tamu-commerce.edu)  
[Student Disability Resources & Services](#)

*Student Conduct*

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See *Code of Student Conduct from Student Guide Handbook*).