

Syllabus

COURSE SYLLABUS

Instructor Information Information about my professional life and research interests can be found [at this website](#).

Student Orientation Tutorial Under **My Courses/Special Courses** you will find the **NExT Student Orientation Tutorial**. If this is your first on-line course, **it is imperative that you take this tutorial**. It's an excellent introduction on how to navigate eCollege. It's also a good review if you feel rusty in eCollege operations.

Course Policies and Procedures This course consists of a series of activities and assessments to assist you in achieving the outcomes/objectives for the course and instructional units/modules. Each week you will work on various combinations of assignments, activities, readings, etc.

In order to complete the course successfully, you will be expected to read all assigned material and complete all assignments. We are covering a lot of material in a relatively short period of time, so you will need to keep up with your **reading** on a regular basis. In addition, you will be expected to take two (2) quizzes, a mid-term and final examination, complete five (5) major homework assignments, and write two (2) journals. **No work for extra credit will be given.**

Course Description Grammar is an often misunderstood and maligned topic. We all have grammar in our brains of which we are for the most part unaware: our so-called mental grammars. This course will bring your instinctive mental grammars to overt consciousness. This will help you to better understand human behavior in general and for those of you who want to teach the subject will help you to present grammar in a lucid way to your students.

More specifically, the purpose of English 501 is to help you to develop a solid understanding of the use and function of grammatical structures in U.S. American English. The course approaches grammar from a descriptive perspective while at the same time acknowledging the place of a prescriptive framework and its influence on Standard English. Topics include articles, tense and aspect, modals, conditionals, prepositions and particles, indirect objects, infinitives and gerunds, relative clauses, and direct and indirect speech. We shall also look at the history of grammar, pedagogical aspects of teaching grammar to native and non-native speakers, and grammar myths perpetuated by prescriptivism. Both written as well as spoken English will be

discussed.

ENG 501 - Structure of the English Language

Catalogue Course Description

Hours: Three

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.

Student Learning Outcomes

A student who has completed English 501, Structure of the English Language, will

1. be aware of the linguistic concept of mental grammar
 2. know the difference between descriptive and prescriptive grammar
 3. understand the traditional parts of speech
 4. understand the structures of English, both formally and functionally
 5. become aware of and appreciate the validity of differences in dialectal grammatical structures
-

Textbooks

1. Yule, George (1999) Explaining English Grammar. Oxford: Oxford University Press. ISBN 0194371727 REQUIRED
2. Schuster, Edgar H. (2003) Breaking the Rules: Liberating Writers through Innovative Grammar Instruction. Portsmouth, NH: Heinemann. ISBN 0-325-00478-1 REQUIRED

Textbooks are available in online bookstores like Amazon.com: [Yule](#), [Schuster](#). *The campus bookstore does not have the books since this class was assigned to the instructor at short notice.*

Course Outline/Tentative Calendar

Below please find each week's work. Each week runs from Monday to the following Sunday. Assignments are due on Sunday at midnight. The calendar is tentative and may change. If this happens you'll be notified.

Week 1 January 19 - 25, 2015 Yule Chapter 1

Week 2 January 26 - February 1 Yule Chapter 2 *Assignment 1*

Week 3 February 2 - 8 Yule Chapter 3

Week 4 February 9 - 15 Yule Chapter 4 *Assignment 2*

Week 5 February 16 - 22 Yule Chapter 5 **Quiz 1**

Week 6 February 23 - March 1 Yule Chapter 6 *Assignment 3*

Week 7 March 2 - 8 Yule Chapter 7

Week 8 March 9 - 15 *Review Assignment 4*

Week 9 March 16 - 22 Spring Break

Week 10 March 23 - 29 **Mid-Term Examination**

Week 11 March 30 - April 5 Yule Chapter 8

Week 12 April 6 - 12 Yule Chapter 9 *Assignment 5*

Week 13 April 13 - 19 Yule Chapter 10 **Quiz 2**

Week 14 April 20 - 26 Schuster Introduction, Chapter 1 *Journal 1*

Week 15 April 27 - May 3 Schuster Chapters 2, 3 *Journal 2*

Week 16 May 4 - 10 Review Discussion

Week 17 May 11 - 17 **Final Examination**

Communication: Please post questions about the course and materials in the **Virtual Office and Email** under **Course Home** at the top of the navigation menu on the left so all students can benefit from your question and from answers by me and other students' answers. I check the **Virtual Office** once a week, so for urgent, as well as private, issues send me an **e-mail**. While I have access to it, I won't normally check the **Student Lounge**, which is intended for interactions among the students of this course.

If in doubt, **e-mail** is the best option to get in touch with me; if your question is of general relevance, I'll post the answer anonymously to the whole class.

Grading Policy

First and foremost, I want to make it clear that this is not a correspondence course in which you work at your own pace to complete assignments and examinations. This is a paced on-line course in which you will be expected to read and complete assigned work according to given deadlines. Therefore, at the beginning of each week, check all materials and assignments for that week, plan ahead, and ask any questions you might have. Don't log in for the first time in a given week on Sunday afternoon!

It is my policy not to accept late work. I will give you what I consider ample time to complete your readings and assignments, so I expect work to be turned in on time. Work that is late will receive zero points. Make it a habit,

however, not to wait until 11:59 to turn in an assignment because it takes a few minutes for eCollege to log in your assignment. You should turn in your work well ahead of the deadline.

If you have any questions about this policy, please contact me.

Here is a preliminary breakdown of the components of grades:

| | |
|-------|----------------------|
| 100 | Mid-Term Examination |
| 100 | Final Examination |
| 30 | Quizzes |
| 100 | Assignments |
| 20 | Journals |
| <hr/> | |
| 350 | TOTAL |
| A | 315-350 |
| B | 280-314 |
| C | 245-279 |
| D | 210-244 |
| F | 209 & below |

Technical Course Concerns:

Support & Library Access If you have questions pertaining to the content of this course (e.g., questions about an exam, about course due dates, etc.), please contact your instructor via email, through the "Virtual Office," or during office hours.

Other Questions/Concerns:

Contact the appropriate TAMU-C department relating to your questions/concern. If you are unable to reach the appropriate department with questions regarding your course enrollment, billing, advising, or financial aid, please call 903-886-5511 between the hours of 8:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Student Code of Conduct:

The A&M-Commerce Student [Guidebook](#) (page 55) details student rights and explains grievance procedures. The guidebook includes the Student Code of Conduct.

eCollege Technical Concerns:

Please contact the eCollege HelpDesk, available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. by sending an email directly to helpdesk@online.tamuc.org . You may also reach the HelpDesk by calling (toll-free) 1-866-656-5511 OR 720-920-6656. The eCollege Helpdesk may also be reached through Chat by clicking on the 'Help' link at that top of this page, and then clicking on the 'Contact Help Desk' link.

Accessing Library Databases & Tutorials:

To access the Library databases and Library tutorials you must open a separate browser session. Minimize your eCollege session and open another browser window going to the Library's web site directly:<http://www.tamuc.edu/library> not from within eCollege.

Currently enrolled students wanting to access databases from abroad:

1. Install the VPN client software from: <https://vpn.tamuc.edu>.
2. Open the installed VPN application and enter personal login information as follows:

Login: student\<(your CWID) (Example: student\12345678)

Password: (enter your myLeo password)

Plagiarism, ADA Academic Honesty

Statement, Student Conduct The official departmental policy: "Instructors in the Department of Literature and Languages do not tolerate plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty. 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])

If you ever have any questions about a particular use of a source, always ask your instructor. They want you to avoid plagiarism, too, so they will help you do so whenever and wherever they can. Do what you can to take advantage of this support—to look innocent in addition to being innocent when it comes to charges of plagiarism. Students guilty of academic dishonesty of plagiarism can expect to fail the assignment in question or the entire course depending on the nature of the incident. See your Writing at Texas A&M University-Commerce Guide (a required text for this course) for more information.)

On University-Sanctioned Activities To accommodate students who participate in university-sanctioned activities, the First- Year Composition Program offers sections of this course at various times of the day and week. If you think that this course may conflict with a university-sanctioned activity in which you are involved--athletics, etc.--please see your instructor after class on the first day.

University Specific Procedures

Statement on behalf of students with disabilities

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@tamuc.edu

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).

Late Work Policy No late work will be accepted. No exceptions. Work should be submitted by midnight, Central time, on the due date that is given in the week's assignment.

Examinations should also be submitted during the time frame specified for each. No exceptions. Failure to submit an examination on time will result in a zero grade.

Having said that, I do realize that unforeseen circumstances can occur in our lives, so if that is the case, please let me know as soon as possible, which in almost all cases means in advance, what is going on and adjustments can possibly be made in the Late Work Policy.

Degree Program Requirements Please be sure to send an email to or make an appointment with your graduate director regarding your degree program to ensure that you are on the right track. It is especially important to remember the 12-hour rule: students will lose anything over 12 hours if they have not been fully admitted into a degree program or if they change their program.

Doctoral students should contact Dr. Donna Dunbar-Odom at Donna.Dunbar-Odom@tamuc.edu

Master's-English students should contact Dr. Susan Stewart at Susan.Stewart@tamuc.edu.

Master's-Applied Linguistics (TESOL) students should contact Dr. Lucy Pickering at Lucy.Pickering@tamuc.edu.

Master's-Spanish students should contact Dr. Flavia Belpoliti at Flavia.Belpoliti@tamuc.edu.
