



## **ENG 301.01W MODERN GRAMMAR**

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### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course guides students through analysis of the sentence-level grammar of English employing contemporary as well as more traditional methodologies. It emphasizes the relationship between the structure of language and that of everyday experience and develops an appreciation of change and variation. Specifically, a great part of the work is focused on identifying, analyzing, and using in context the parts of speech and the units of discourse of the English language. The primary goal is to foster the realization that English grammar is a system, whose purpose is to encode meanings that are used frequently in language. In response to the overarching question, “How does the system of English grammar work,” this course will address three main aspects: applied grammar, theoretical grammar, and social variations relating to grammar. Students will learn how to handle grammatical rules and their “exceptions” by approaching them through heuristics and particularly how to observe those mechanisms in actual texts. Students will be also guided to recognize the ambiguities and multiple possible interpretations of constructions.

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES/LEARNING OUTCOMES**

Students will demonstrate a basic understanding of the social, historical, and pedagogical issues surrounding grammar. The course objectives include the following:

- Students will be familiar with the history of the development of grammar.
- Students will be familiar with the basic concepts of variationist sociolinguistics, as they relate to grammar.
- Students will understand the issues of usage and orthographic conventions.

By the end of this course, students will develop a good grasp of the meta-language of grammar. This general outcome will be assessed in the following three specific areas by evaluation of the weekly assignments in the form of multiple-choice assessment quizzes, a mid-term exam, and a final exam.

- Students will be able to identify and manipulate parts of speech and phrases.
- They will be able to identify and manipulate the different types of clauses and sentences.
- They will be able to demonstrate their knowledge of language variations, as they relate to grammar.

## COURSE MATERIALS

### Course Materials

This course does not require you to purchase any textbooks. All materials are available on our course site.

If you want to own a book that has some but not all of the ideas presented in the course, you may purchase this book:

Brown, S., Attardo, S., & Vigliotti, C. (2014). *Understanding language structure, interaction, and variation* (3<sup>rd</sup> ed.). Ann Arbor, MI: University of Michigan Press.

For an accessible linguistic description of the grammar of modern English, you can also consult:

Greenbaum, S. & Quirk, R. (1999). *A Student's Grammar of the English Language*. London: Longman.

### Computer and Technologies

This class will be delivered completely online using Desire2Learn Brightspace (D2L), the new Learning Management System used by Texas A&M University-Commerce. To get started with the course, go to <http://www.tamuc.edu/myleo.aspx>. You will need your CWID and password to log in to the course. Students are required to have regular access to a computer with an Internet connection. At a minimum, you must have Microsoft Office 2013, 2010, 2007 or Open Office. Microsoft Office is the standard office productivity software utilized by faculty, students, and staff. Microsoft Word is the standard word processing software, Microsoft Excel is the standard spreadsheet software, and Microsoft PowerPoint is the standard presentation software. If you experience problems in accessing the course site or have other technological difficulties, please contact the CITE Help Desk at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk @tamuc.edu.

## COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

The following assignments help students achieve the learning outcomes listed above. Detailed information and guidelines for each assignment will be available on the course site. For the course organization, please check the course calendar on the last two pages of the syllabus.

- **Meet and Greet** (0.5%) --- Students will self-introduce themselves and greet each other in the discussion forum. They may post about their majors, academic interests, learning /research experiences, and their hobbies, etc.
- **Quizzes** (15%) --- Students will take weekly quizzes to demonstrate their knowledge and learning of the course contents about applied grammar. There are 12 quizzes in total.
- **Discussions** (12.5%) --- Online discussions provide students with opportunities to engage with readings about theoretical grammar and interact and share insights with the classmates. There are 10 discussion activities in total.
- **Variation Assignments** (8%) --- Students will complete 8 variation assignments in relation to course contents regarding grammar and social variations.
- **Assessment Tests** (24%) --- Students will take weekly assessment tests to demonstrate their learning of course contents in terms of applied grammar, theoretical grammar, and variation. There are 12 tests in total.

- **Midterm Exam** (15%) — The midterm exam is to provide students with opportunities to demonstrate their knowledge and learning of the topics covered in the first half of the semester. Similar to assessment tests, it will mainly include multiple-choice questions.
- **Final Exam** (25%) --- The final exam is to provide students with opportunities to demonstrate their knowledge of the topics covered in the entire semester and synthesize their understanding of relevant issues. It will consist of two components: Multiple-choice questions and short essays.

<b>COURSE/ UNIVERSITY POLICIES</b>
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### Course Ground Rules

Being successful in an online course requires tremendous self-discipline and high motivation. In this course, all work will be completed through D2L. Access and follow all course instructions found in the content area of the D2L course. Clicking on each week’s tab on the left navigation bar, you will find a weekly introduction which includes a section called “Activities & Assignment for This Week”, where you will find the list of assignments due that week. Please note that **assignment due dates are crucial. No delayed assignments will be accepted.**

You should check the course website frequently for assignments, announcements, and discussions. I strongly recommend dedicating set days/times to completing your work and working in advance so that you are always a day or two ahead. In order to achieve the outcomes of the course, you will be involved in a number of different activities. It is fundamental to complete all of the readings and activities on time: the quizzes, the discussions, the assignments, the assessment tests, and the exams. I encourage you to do all the course reading and assignments for each learning module in the order they are presented. Moreover, we are co-constructing our knowledge in the online community. Please be prepared, share thoughtfully, respond respectfully, and engage in all learning processes.

### Grading Scale

The total score for course assignments is 2000 points.

Meet and Greet	10 points	0.5%
Quizzes	300 points (25x12)	15%
Discussions	250 points (25 x10)	12.5%
Variation Assignments	160 points (20x8)	8%
Assessment Tests	480 points (40x12)	24%
Midterm Exam	300 points	15%
Final Exam	500 points	25%

The final grade will be based on the following criteria:

A =1801-2000    B=1601-1800    C=1401-1600    D=1200-1400    F= 1199 or below

### Assignment Submissions

- Our workweek runs from Monday to Sunday. For your convenience, however, I release each learning module three days earlier (i.e., Friday) on D2L. All assignments must be submitted to D2L by the designated due date (mostly, **Sunday 11:59pm**). No late work will be accepted.
- Variation Assignments should be submitted to the designated submission folders through “Assignments” under “Activities” on D2L.

- If you have trouble uploading the assignment to the course site, please e-mail your paper to me at [Tawnya.Smith@tamuc.edu](mailto:Tawnya.Smith@tamuc.edu).

### **Learning Management System D2L (Brightspace)**

D2L is committed to performing key application testing when new browser versions are released. New and updated functionality is also tested against the latest version of supported browsers. However, due to the frequency of some browser releases, D2L cannot guarantee that each browser version will perform as expected. If you encounter any issues with any of the browser versions listed in the tables below, contact CITE helpdesk or D2L Support.

Note the following:

- Ensure that your browser has JavaScript and Cookies enabled.
- For desktop systems, you must have Adobe Flash Player 10.1 or greater.
- The Brightspace Support features are now optimized for production environments when using the Google Chrome browser, Apple Safari browser, Microsoft Edge browser, Microsoft Internet Explorer browser, and Mozilla Firefox browsers.
- You will need regular access to a computer with a broadband Internet connection. The minimum computer requirements are:
  - 512MB of RAM, 1GB or more preferred
  - Broadband connection required courses are heavily video intensive
  - Video display capable of high-color 16-bit display 1024 x 768 or higher resolution
- You must have a:
  - Sound card, which is usually integrated into your desktop or laptop computer
  - Speakers or headphones.
- Both versions of Java (32 bit and 64 bit) must be installed and up to date on your machine. At a minimum Java 7, update 51, is required to support the learning management system. The most current version of Java can be downloaded at: JAVA web site <http://www.java.com/en/download/manual.jsp>
- Current anti-virus software must be installed and kept up to date.

### **Communication**

I encourage you to contact me if you have any questions about this course. Please send messages directly to [Tawnya.Smith@tamuc.edu](mailto:Tawnya.Smith@tamuc.edu). I generally reply email within 24 hours. If you desire an online or face-to-face meeting, please always email me first to set up an appointment.

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778 or click on the Live Chat to submit an issue via email.



### **Syllabus Change Policy**

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

## University Specific Procedures

### *Student Conduct*

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the Student Guidebook:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx>

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: [Netiquettehttp://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html](http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html)

### *TAMUC Attendance*

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the following webpages:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

### *Academic Integrity*

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

**Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03**

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

**Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.10**

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10GraduateStudentAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

### *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- Room 162

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

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: [studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu](mailto:studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu)

Website: Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

### *Nondiscrimination Notice*

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

### *Campus Concealed Carry Statement*

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations. For a list of locations, please refer to the Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus document and/or consult your event organizer. Web URL:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

## Course Calendar

<b>Week</b>	<i>Applied Grammar</i>	<b>Quiz</b>	<i>Theoretical Grammar</i>	<b>Discussion</b>	<i>Variation</i>	<b>Assignment</b>	<b>Assessment Test</b>
Week 1 (1/14-1/20)	Introduction	No	Introduction	Meet & Greet	Introduction	No	
Week 2 (1/21-1/27)	Coherence and cohesion	Quiz 1	Linguistics as science	Discussion 1	Writing and speech	Assignment 1	Test 1
Week 3 (1/28-2/3)	Parts of speech	Quiz 2	Prescriptive vs. descriptive	Discussion 2	Formal vs. Informal	No	Test 2
Week 4 (2/4-2/10)	Noun- NP, pronouns	Quiz 3	Competence vs. performance	Discussion 3	Register	Assignment 2	Test 3
Week 5 (2/11-2/17)	Verb-VP	Quiz 4	“Standard” English	Discussion 4	Variation across social strata	No	Test 4
Week 6 (2/18-2/24)	Auxiliaries, modals, tense and aspects	Quiz 5	History of grammar I: Antiquity and Middle Ages	Discussion 5	Variation across space	Assignment 3	Test 5
Week 7 (2/25-3/3)	Determiners and adjectives	Quiz 6	History of grammar II: Renaissances to Chomsky	No	Language and gender	Assignment 4	Test 6
Week 8 (3/4-3/10)	MIDTERM EXAM						

Week 9 (3/11-3/17)	Prepositions- PP Adverbs- AP	Quiz 7	History of Grammar III: Case Grammar, Functional grammar, cognitive grammar	Discussion 6	Scientific Language vs. jargon	Assignment 5	Test 7
3/18-3/24	SPRING BREAK						
Week 10 (3/25-3/31)	Sentence structure	Quiz 8	Types of grammar	Discussion 7	Diachrony and Synchrony	No	Test 8
Week 11 (4/1-4/7)	Transitive Intransitive passive Copular verbs	Quiz 9	Pedagogy of grammar: L1	Discussion 8	Language and age	Assignment 6	Test 9
Week 12 (4/8-4/14)	Subordination and coordination	Quiz 10	Pedagogy of grammar: L2	--- No ---	Foreigner talk, EFL	Assignment 7	Test 10
Week 13 (4/15-4/21)	Relative clauses	Quiz 11	Diagramming sentences	--- Discussion 9	Ethnic languages	Assignment 8	Test 11
Week 14 (4/22-4/28)	Marked construction	Quiz 12	Usage and punctuation	--- Discussion 10 ---	No	No	Test 12
Week 15 (4/29-5/5)	---	No	---	---	---	Review for Final	
Finals Week (5/6-5/10)	FINAL EXAM						