

ENG 373 "English Grammar" (3 credit hrs)/Course syllabus
CID# 1786: TuTh 9:30-11:00, Room: Evans 105

Spring 2008

Professor: S. Helena Halmari

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Office hours: M & Th 17:00-18:00, Tu & Th 12:30-14:00, and by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES:

The central purpose of this course is to introduce the study of English grammar. We will start by comparing prescriptive and descriptive approaches to language study and will then proceed to investigate various aspects of English morphology (word-building strategies and inflections) and syntax, using contemporary linguistics as our guide and focusing on the basic rules of English syntax (sentence structure). The course consists of readings (a textbook and supplementary handouts), lectures and discussions, exercises, four tests, and a final exam. You will learn to approach English—which for most of you is a native language in which you are completely fluent—as an object of scientific investigation. On the one hand, this course will sensitize you to the richness and complexity of English and, on the other, it will help you to find patterns and regularities in that complexity. We will start from the premise that you already are an expert in the topic at hand. This course seeks to tap your subconscious expertise, the language knowledge that each native speaker possesses since early childhood, and make part of that subconscious knowledge of yours—your gift of language—available to your conscious analysis. Since the focus of ENG 373 is teaching students to recognize the basic syntax patterns underlying all sentences generated by a native speaker of Modern English, regardless of their dialect, a major component must be a sophisticated and respectful grasp of the complex relationship between the various spoken dialects of a world language such as English. All semester, repeated examples in ENG 373 lectures aim to illuminate the fact that each of those dialects represents merely a particular, historically conditioned pattern of small variations from a basic, shared set of linguistic protocols. Students are expected to recognize that all dialects of a language are subtle, rule-bound and effective communication tools; however, they are also confronted by the reality that, in any complex society comprised of multiple income levels and social tiers, a particular dialect will inevitably come to be associated with power and prestige and others will, in consequence, be stigmatized or regarded as quaintly regional by outsiders. Those not born into the prestige dialect must decide, while growing up, whether they wish for the social mobility and broad public acceptance associated with its mastery or whether they are content to remain, in some ways, marginalized. Intelligent people do not all make the same choices when confronted with this highly personal question. Because these concepts are so central to modern sociolinguistics, it would be pointless merely to “do an assignment” on them, as though one were checking off a set of vaccinations required for some sort of “public intellectual health certificate.” Instead, the concept must be internalized in such a way that future teachers will bring both realistic and sympathetic attitudes to bear on the language instruction of their future pupils. All tests in ENG 373 are objective.

¹ Since Sam Houston State University no longer pays for its English professors' long-distance phone calls, send me an email if you need me to reply to your message in case you do not have a Huntsville phone number.

REQUIREMENTS/ATTENDANCE:

Bring your textbook to class (we will regularly go over exercises in the book) and attend regularly. For administrative purposes, you need to sign in when you attend class, but there is no participation requirement, except on test days. However, your regular attendance will greatly enhance your chances of doing well. You cannot miss any tests, but if you must (because of an illness or another acceptable excuse such as death in the family), there is one make-up day at the end of the semester (May 8, time TBA). You will have to make up all missed tests during that day. There is no “extra credit”; however, some tests may include an opportunity for a few extra credit points. The tests will be graded promptly and returned to you in class.

GRADING:	90-100 (A)	EVALUATION:	Test 1 (=Review test)	10 %
	80-89 (B)		Tests 2, 3, 4 (3x20%)	60 %
	70-79 (C)		In-class final	30 %
	60-69 (D)			
	0-59 (F)			

REQUIRED TEXT: Klammer, T. P., Schultz, M. R., and Volpe, A. D. 2007. *Analyzing English Grammar*. 5th ed. New York: Pearson/Longman. ISBN: 0-321-42618-5.

SYLLABUS (The syllabus may be subject to change.) READINGS

Th 1/17	Syllabus distributed. Class policies.	
Tu 1/22	Traditional grammar review	Klammer 1
Th 1/24	Traditional grammar review cont. <i>Last day to register and process schedule changes.</i>	
Tu 1/29	Traditional grammar review cont.	
Th 1/31	Varieties of English <i>(Feb. 1: Last day to drop without a “Q.” Degree applications due for May 2008.)</i>	Klammer 2
Tu 2/5	Test 1 (=Review test)	
Th 2/7	Morphology	Klammer 3
Tu 2/12	Morphology	Klammer 3
Th 2/14	Form-class words	Klammer 4
Tu 2/19	Form-class words	Klammer 4
Th 2/21	Test 2	
Tu 2/26	Structure-class words	Klammer 5
Th 2/28	Structure-class words	Klammer 5

Tu 3/4	Phrases	Klammer 6
Th 3/6	Phrases <i>(March 7: Last day for dropping without grade of F. Degree applications due for August 2008.)</i>	Klammer 6
Tu 3/11	<i>Spring break</i>	
Th 3/13	<i>Spring break</i>	
Tu 3/18	Basic sentence types	Klammer 7
Th 3/20	Basic sentence types	Klammer 7
Tu 3/25	Basic sentence types	Klammer 7
Th 3/27	Test 3	
Tu 4/1	Basic sentence transformations	Klammer 8
Th 4/3	Basic sentence transformations	Klammer 8
Tu 4/8	Basic sentence transformations	Klammer 8
Th 4/10	Adverbial and adjectival clauses	Klammer 9
Tu 4/15	Adverbial and adjectival clauses	Klammer 9
Th 4/17	Nominal clauses	Klammer 10
Tu 4/22	Review for test 4	
Th 4/24	Test 4	
Tu 4/29	Infinitive phrases	Klammer 11
Th 5/1	Infinitive phrases	Klammer 11
Tu 5/6	Participle and gerund phrases	Klammer 12
Th 5/8	Participle and gerund phrases	Klammer 12
May ?	In-class final exam <i>(Grades will be filed by Monday, May 19, 9 a.m.)</i>	The final is partially comprehensive

Also, nota bene:

Academic dishonesty.

All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials. For a complete listing of the university policy, see:

<http://www.shsu.edu/administrative/faculty/sectionb.html#dishonesty>

If you cheat during a tests (quizzes or exams) (e.g. from the notes, from books, from your peers' papers, or any other way, you will receive an automatic F for that test.

American with Disabilities Act. It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance are expected to visit with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Counseling Center. They should then make arrangements with their individual instructors so that appropriate strategies can be considered and helpful procedures can be developed to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired. SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If a student has a disability that may affect adversely her/his work in this class, then the student is encouraged to register with the SHSU Counseling Center and to talk with the instructor about how best to deal with the situation. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: no accommodation can be made until the student registers with the Counseling Center.

Religious Holidays. Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence. "Religious holy day" means a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20, Tax Code.

Visitors in the Classroom. Unannounced visitors to class must present a current, official SHSU identification card to be permitted into the classroom. They must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. If the visitor is not a registered student, it is at the instructor's discretion whether or not the visitor will be allowed to remain in the classroom. This policy is not intended to discourage the occasional visiting of classes by responsible persons. Obviously, however, the visiting of a particular class should be occasional and not regular, and it should in no way constitute interference with registered members of the class or the educational process.

Instructor Evaluations. Students will be asked to complete a course/instructor evaluation form toward the end of the semester.

Study Tips. Come and see the instructor immediately when you have questions. Utilize the services of the SAM Center and the Writing Center. Ask for tutors who are knowledgeable in linguistics (names will be provided in the beginning of semester).

Classroom Rules of Conduct. The Code of Student Conduct and Discipline is found at the following link: <https://www.shsu.edu/students/guide/dean/codeofconduct.html>. Section 5.2.22 defines classroom disturbances. You may enter the classroom a few minutes late if you do it quietly and unobtrusively. Traffic during class is to be avoided. Should you need to leave during class for an important appointment, please notify the instructor before class starts. Cellular phones and other typical disturbances need to be turned off/silent. Should your phone ring during class, you must pick up the call; the class will then proceed to analyze your phone conversation for its sociolinguistic and pragmatic aspects.