Texas A&M University--Corpus Christi  
English 3340.002 Grammar  
MW 5:30-6:45pm  
Spring 2013

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Course Materials

Textbook and Review Resources


- *Guide to Grammar and Writing*, a comprehensive web site for extra review—http://grammar.ccc.commnet.edu/grammar

3-ring binder (1 ½ inch) for course handouts, chapter exercises, writing assignments.

- Create 6 dividers: Parts of Speech, Sentence Parts, Verbs, Phrases, Clauses, Grammar Awareness Essay and Revisions

6 “Scantron” test sheets.

Bring your book and binder to class each day.

Course Description

English 3340 provides the teacher trainee and English language student with the fundamentals of English syntax. The course will follow a framework of linguistic and pedagogical concepts intended to provide future teachers with approaches and materials useful for teaching grammar in the elementary or secondary classrooms. This class is also designed to introduce new methods of analyzing the structure of the English language and to enable the student to view her or his own writing and that of published writers with an increased awareness of grammatical structures and choices. Final Grades will be based on the following formula: A=100-90; B=89-80; C=79-70; D=69-65; F=below 65
Course Objectives

- The student will be able to distinguish between prescriptive and descriptive approaches to the study of grammar.
- The student will be able to comprehend concepts of traditional and structural models of English.
- The student will be able to understand and analyze the syntactical structure of English.
- The student will become more aware of the varying societal attitudes toward grammar usage and the general dilemmas that teachers face when teaching grammar.

Student Learning Outcomes

- Students will demonstrate the ability to analyze specific areas of grammar knowledge as well as their understanding of grammar usage in their own writing.
- Students will demonstrate an understanding of English syntax structures and punctuation necessary for teaching the required written conventions of the TEKS.

Course Requirements and Class Policies

Evaluation

1. **Five Exams** on grammar material from the textbook (chapters 2, 3, 4, 5, 6), class handouts, and class lectures will comprise 80% of the final grade.
   - Five Exams @ 20 points each = 100 points
   - A = 100-90; B = 89-80; C = 79-70; D = 69-65; F = below 65
   - There are no make-up exams except when arranged in advance.
   - The Grammar Final Exam is optional and may be used to substitute for the lowest of the exam grades. The Grammar Final Exam will be individualized in that students will choose which chapter of the material they will focus on for the final exam.

2. **Grammar Awareness Essay Portfolio** will comprise 20% of the final grade.
   - This assignment consists of one Grammar Awareness Essay of 3 pages minimum which the student will revise and analyze during the semester. Two drafts plus a final version comprise the portfolio.
     - Each revision will focus on a particular topic and will be analyzed for the use of particular grammar elements.
     - Each revision is due during class on the date indicated by the syllabus.
     - If your writing levels are not up to college-level standards, I will ask that you set up an appointment at the Writing Center. During tutorials, you will have guidance with revising and editing.
   - Essay Portfolio—at the end of the semester, the completed revisions will be gathered and a final completed essay will synthesize all the
grammatical elements. A handout will follow. The revisions and the final essay will be averaged together for the final grade: 100-90=A; 89-80=B; 79-70=C; 69-65=D

Course Policies

Late assignments are not accepted unless arrangements are made through email prior to the deadline. If you are having trouble with any assignment, set up an appointment with me, and we can discuss solutions, review material, review drafts of writing assignments, etc.

Class attendance is critical if you intend to do well in this course and attain a passing grade since the exams cover material from the text, course handouts, and class lectures. If you are absent from class, you are responsible for the material and for obtaining class notes/handouts from a classmate. After 3 unexcused absences, 2 points will be deducted from your final grade for each class missed thereafter.

Arriving late to class is both a disruption to the teacher and your fellow students, and it ensures that you will miss material important to your success in the course. If you cannot get to the class on time, I suggest that you drop this course and re-take it when your schedule allows. After 2 unexcused late arrivals, 2 points will be deducted from your final grade for each late arrival thereafter.

No electronic devices are allowed in the classroom. You will not need computers nor cell phones for our work in class. The ringing of cell phones and other electronic devices is an unnecessary and ill-mannered interruption to class time. All cell phones must be turned off and put away before entering the classroom. If you use your cell phone during the class period, I will ask you to leave the room.

General Comments

This is a required class for many majors and programs. The class is not difficult, but it is quite challenging and requires consistent, focused, and incremental studying. To do well in this class, you must simply do the following:

- Be prepared for class. You will not fully understand the class lecture unless you have done the assigned reading for that day—save yourself the frustration!
- Do the exercises. The chapters have numerous exercises that will be assigned during this course. The answers are in the back of the book, so you can check your answers and isolate your problem areas. You will also be given handouts for extra practice. I suggest that you form a study group or find a study partner and have another person to review with for the exams.
- Ask questions. If you have done the reading and the exercises but still do not fully understand the material, be sure to ask questions during class. Although I want to encourage you to ask for help/clarification during class (your classmates probably
have the same questions), I also realize that some students are not comfortable doing so. If this is the case, please come to my office during my office hours or make an appointment to meet with me at another time.

- **Attend every class.** Since the exams cover material from class lecture as well as from the handouts and the textbook, you will succeed only if you attend.
- **Do not plagiarize material for any writing assignment.** Plagiarism or “the presentation of the work of another as one’s own work” is a serious violation of professional standards and can be grounds for dismissal from the course. If you want to use secondary source material in your writing and do not know how to cite the source, let me know, and we can review it. If you have trouble with any aspect of a writing assignment, let me know immediately, and I can help you.

**University Resources and Policies**

- **Academic Advising:** It is imperative that all students visit regularly with an academic adviser. Each college within the university has an academic advising center, staffed by full-time, professional advisers to assist students with course selection, degree plans, and other academic matters. To find out how to contact the right adviser, go to: [http://www.tamucc.edu/academics/advising.php](http://www.tamucc.edu/academics/advising.php)
- **Students who have yet to declare a major are advised by the Academic Advising Transition Center.** For more information, go to: [http://www.tamucc.edu/~aac](http://www.tamucc.edu/~aac)
- **Notice to 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 believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please call or visit Disability Services at (361) 825-5816 in Corpus Christi Hall 116. If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom, or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance.
- **The Center for Academic Student Achievement (CASA):** The Writing Center of CASA provides free writing instruction to any student interested in improving his/her writing abilities. Tutors will assist you with all aspects of writing. The Writing Center’s purpose is not to correct or proofread your drafts but to help you learn strategies that good writers use during the processes of writing. You may visit the Center for assistance with a writing project for any of your classes. It is located in the Glasscock Building (825-5933).
- **Grade Appeals Process:** As stated in University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Rule
13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, and University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures. These documents are accessible through the University Rules Web site at http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.htm. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Office of Student Affairs.

- **Reminder to English Majors**: As part of the English undergraduate capstone course (ENGL 4351), all English majors are required to submit a portfolio of writings in different discourse genres that they have completed for their college classes. To help you prepare for this assignment, you should **keep a copy** of all essays, research papers, literary analyses, creative and report writing, etc., so that you will have an ample selection from which to choose when the portfolio comes due.

### Reading Assignments and Due Dates

All reading assignments and exercises are from the textbook: Lester, *Grammar and Usage in the Classroom*, Second Edition

**Week 1** Course Introduction

- **Wed., Jan. 23** In-class Diagnostic test

**Week 2** Chapter 1 and Chapter 2

- **For Mon., Jan. 28** Read Chapter 1: Teaching Grammar and Usage (pp. 3-17) From Chapter 2: Parts of Speech, prepare the following exercises before class, check your answers, and bring your questions to class.
  - Noun exercises #1, #2, #3, #4
  - Adjective exercises #1, #3, #4, #5
  - Pronoun exercises #1, #4, #6, #8, #9
  - Verb exercise #1

- **For Wed., Jan. 30**
  - Prepare the following exercises before class, check your answers, and bring your questions to class.
    - Conjunction exercise #1
    - Adverb exercises #1, #2, #3, #4, #5
    - Review Exercises #1 and #2

**Week 3** Chapter 2

- **For Mon., Feb. 4**
  - Practice Test and Review

- **For Wed., Feb. 6** Exam on Chapter 2: Parts of Speech
Week 4 Chapter 3: Basic Sentences and Their Diagrams
  • **For Mon., Feb. 11**
    o Prepare Sentence Exercises #1, #2, #3, #4, #5, #6,
    o Read Handout on Prescriptive vs. Descriptive Rules of Grammar
  • **For Wed., Feb. 13**
    o Prepare Sentence Exercises #7, #8, #9, #10, #11, #12

Week 5 Chapter 3
  • **For Mon., Feb. 18**
    o Prepare Sentence Exercises #13, #14
    o Prepare Review Exercises Handouts
  • **For Wed., Feb. 20**
    o Prepare Practice Test for Review

Week 6 Chapter 3
  • **For Mon., Feb. 25** Exam on Chapter 3: Basic Sentences
  • **For Wed., Feb. 27** Introduction to Verbs

Week 7 Chapter 4: Verbs
  o **For Mon., March 4**
    o Prepare Verb Exercises #3, #4, #5,#6

    **For Wed., March 6** Prepare Verb Exercises #7, #10, #12, #13

    **SPRING BREAK--- NO CLASSES!!!**

Week 8 Chapter 4: Verbs
  • **For Mon., March 18** Prepare Handouts of Review Exercises
  • **For Wed., March 20** Exam on Chapter 4: Verbs

Week 9 Chapter 5
  • **For Mon., March 25**
    o Prepare Phrase Exercises: #1, #2, #3, #4, #5

  • **For Wed., March 27**
    o Prepare Phrase Exercises: #6, #7,#9, #10

Week 12 Chapter 5
  • **For Mon., April 1**
Week 13 Chapter 5

- **For Wed., April 3**
  - Prepare Phrase Exercises: #12, #13, #15, #16

- **For Wed., April 3**
  - Prepare Phrase Exercises: #18, #19, #20, #21

Week 14 Chapter 6 Clauses

- **For Mon., April 8**
  - Prepare all Phrase Review Handouts and exercises #22, #23, #24
  - Review for Phrases Exam

For Wed., April 10 Exam on Chapter 5: Phrases

Week 15 Chapter 6

- **For Mon., April 15**
  - Prepare Clause Exercises #1, #2, #3, #5, #6, #7

- **For Wed., April 17**
  - Chapter 6: Clauses
  - Prepare Clause Exercises: #8, #9, #11, #12

Week 16 Chapter 6

- **For Mon., April 22**
  - Grammar Awareness Essay Portfolio Due

- **For Wed., April 24**
  - Prepare Clause Exercises: #14, #15, #17

Week 17 Chapter 6

For Mon., May 6 Exam on Chapter 6: Clauses

Final Exam: To Be Announced