**SYLLABUS**

**ENGL 342–1: English Grammars**

**Spring 2019**

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**Instructor:** James A. Berry, Ph.D. **Email:** jberry@uwsp.edu

**Office:** CCC 441 **Office phone:** 715-346-2385

**Office hours:** Mon, 1:00–2:00 p.m., Wed, 2:00–3:00 p.m., Tue/Thu, 3:00–4:00 p.m.

and by appointment

**Class meets:** Mon/Wed **Classroom:** CCC 106

3:30–4:45 p.m.

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**Course description**

The aim of this course is to examine and to analyze the major grammatical structures of English. Topics include categories, phrases, functions, verb types, clauses, and finiteness. The student will acquire understanding of and facility with syntactic arguments, e.g. arguing why an adjective is ‘correct’ in a particular position, understanding what differentiates an object from an adverbial, and explaining ambiguous sentences.

This course stresses that it is more important to be able to argue something effectively and with support than just to memorize rules. For that reason, the text and our discussions will leave a number of issues unresolved. Some general issues such as prescriptivism and descriptivism, varieties of English, and innateness are discussed as well.

**Learning outcomes**

By the end of this course, you should be able to

* identify the syntactic category of a word in a sentence, based upon syntactic, morphological, and semantic cues;
* organize the words of an English sentence into constituents (phrases and clauses);
* recognize and discuss the functions of words and phrases in a sentence;
* represent the structure of phrases, clauses, and sentences in English through the use of bracketing and binary tree diagrams;
* understand the distinction between prescriptive and descriptive rules.

**Required texts and materials**

***Rental***

Gelderen, Elly van (2010). *An Introduction to the Grammar of English*. Revised edition. Amsterdam and Philadelphia: John Benjamins.

In addition to the text listed above, you will need to bring paper and pen/pencil to class each day, as we will have in-class practice, assignments, quizzes, and exams.

***Online resource***

*Oxford English Dictionary* online (available through UWSP Library)

**Assignments and assessment**

There will be several assignments given throughout the semester as checkpoints so that you can measure your progress with the material. These include exams, quizzes, and homework assignments. Attendance and participation will also play a role in your grade (see below).

***Exams***

There will be three in-class exams during the regular semester. These will cover the topics of the weeks preceding each exam.

***Final exam***

The final exam for this course will be held in class during UWSP finals week.

***Quizzes***

There will be two brief in-class quizzes given.

***Homework***

Four assignments will be given out throughout the semester. Homework submitted late will be subject to a grade reduction.

***Reading***

You are expected to read the text before class. If I am concerned that students are not reading, I reserve the right to give additional quizzes, which will be graded.

***Attendance and participation***

This course is unlike many other English classes. You don't have to read a lot but you need to practice! For that reason, you need to come to class as well. I will take attendance every class period. For this class, “attendance” means being present, on time, and prepared for the entire class period. A student who is chronically late to class, leaves early, or is not prepared to participate in the day’s classwork will not receive attendance and participation credit.

You will have two (2) “freebie absences” for the semester, excluding the final exam period. Use them carefully. If you miss more than two scheduled classes, each missed class will result in the loss of ***one grade*** (e.g. from A to A−) from your attendance total. **Note that using your “freebie” does not excuse you from any due dates, exams, quizzes, or homework assignments.** Check with your classmates regarding any work you may have missed.

***Grading***

4 homework assignments, 20 points each: 80 points

2 quizzes, 10 points each: 20

Exam 1: 30

Exam 2: 40

Exam 3: 40

Final exam: 60

Attendance/participation 30

TOTAL 300 points

***Grading scale***

280-300 = A 260-269 = B+ 230-239 = C+ 200-209 = D+ 0-179 = F

270-279 = A− 250-259 = B 220-229 = C 180-199 = D

240-249 = B− 210-219 = C−

**university policies**

***UWSP Community Bill of Rights and Responsibilities***

The University of Wisconsin–Stevens Point values a safe, honest, respectful, and inviting learning environment. In order to ensure that each student has the opportunity to succeed, we have developed a set of expectations for all students and instructors. This set of expectations is known as the Rights and Responsibilities document, and it is intended to help establish a positive living and learning environment at UWSP. This document can be found at <http://www.uwsp.edu/dos/Pages/Student-Conduct.aspx>

***Plagiarism and academic dishonesty***

Academic integrity is central to the mission of higher education and UWSP in particular. Academic dishonesty (cheating, plagiarism, etc.) is taken very seriously. ***Don’t do it!*** The minimum penalty for a violation of academic integrity is a failing grade (zero) for the assignment. For more information, see the UWSP “Student Academic Standards and Disciplinary Procedures” section of the Rights and Responsibilities document, found here: <http://www.uwsp.edu/stuaffairs/Documents/RightsRespons/SRR-2010/rightsChap14.pdf>

**Americans with disabilities act (ADA)**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal law requiring educational institutions to provide reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. For more information about UWSP’s policies, check here:

<http://www.uwsp.edu/stuaffairs/Documents/RightsRespons/ADA/rightsADAPolicyInfo.pdf>

If you have a disability and require classroom and/or exam accommodations, please register with the Disability and Assistive Technology Center and then contact me at the beginning of the course. I am happy to help in any way that I can. For more information, please visit the Disability and Assistive Technology Center, located on the 6th floor of Albertson Hall (the Library). You can also find more information here: <http://www4.uwsp.edu/special/disability/>

**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

For details on all emergency responses at the University of Wisconsin–Stevens Point, see the UWSP Emergency Management Plan at [http://www.uwsp.edu/rmgt/Pages/em/default.aspx](https://email.uwsp.edu/owa/redir.aspx?C=GX1lGcFYhkOSArus6JRql6OQYVSrmdEIh67-MUQ24B2cn-30AayTmwdAplBEblCPBxVKj6XLvH4.&URL=http%3a%2f%2fwww.uwsp.edu%2frmgt%2fPages%2fem%2fdefault.aspx)

**ENGLISH DEPARTMENT POLICY ON RECORDINGS**

Students may not make audio, video, or photographic recordings of lectures or other class activities without written permission from the instructor. Anyone violating this policy will be asked to turn off the device being used. Refusal to comply with the policy will result in the student being asked to leave the classroom, and possibly being reported to the Dean of Students.

**Classroom protocol**

At all times you should be respectful toward others; inappropriate and disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Our classroom will be a place where all involved feel safe when exchanging ideas. Diverse opinions and concepts are a fact of college life and adult life beyond college. As a class we will work together to understand and appreciate different viewpoints.

In this class there will be no use of cellular phones or other similar electronic devices, including for sending or receiving text messages. Unless you are otherwise instructed, or unless you have a documented reason for doing so, please refrain from using laptops in class.

*Failure to abide by any of these rules may result in being asked to leave the classroom, resulting in an absence for that day.*

**PROBLEM SOLVING**

I encourage you to see me during office hours, to email me, or to make an appointment any time we are both available to discuss issues connected with this class and/or your performance.

Please discuss concerns with me at an early time—while we have options. I tend to be generous with students who consult with me while issues are concerns, rather than crises. Of course, if an emergency situation does arise, please let me know as soon as possible.

**SCHEDULE**

(subject to change)

**Date Readings/Assignments**

***Week 1***

W 1/23 Introduction to class and background

Chapter 1 plus exercises

***Week 2***

M 1/28 Chapter 2 plus exercises

W 1/30 Chapter 2 continued

***Week 3***

M 2/4 Chapter 3 plus exercises

W 2/6 Chapter 3 continued

***Week 4***

M 2/11 **Homework 1 due** Chapter 3 continued

W 2/13 **Quiz 1 in class** Review for exam

***Week 5***

M 2/18 **Exam 1 in class**

W 2/20 Chapter 4 plus exercises

***Week 6***

M 2/25 Chapter 4 continued

W 2/27 Chapter 4 continued; discussion of exam

***Week 7***

M 3/4 Chapter 5 plus exercises

W 3/6 Chapter 5 continued

***Week 8***

M 3/11 Chapter 6 plus exercises

W 3/13 **Homework 2 due** Chapter 6 continued

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\* SPRING BREAK, 3/18–22: NO CLASSES \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\***

***Week 9***

M 3/25 **Quiz 2 in class** Chapter 6 continued

W 3/27 Review for exam

**Date Readings/Assignments**

***Week 10***

M 4/1 **Exam 2 in class**

W 4/3 Chapter 7 plus exercises

***Week 11***

M 4/8 Chapter 7 continued

W 4/10 Discussion of exam; Chapter 8 plus exercises

***Week 12***

M 4/15 **Homework 3 due** Chapter 8 continued

W 4/17 Chapter 8 continued; review for exam

***Week 13***

M 4/22 **Exam 3 in class**

W 4/24 Chapter 9 plus exercises

***Week 14***

M 4/29 Chapter 9 continued

W 5/1 Discussion of exam; Chapter 10 plus exercises

***Week 15***

M 5/6 **Homework 4 due** Chapter 11

W 5/8 Review for final

***Week 16***

W 5/15 **Final exam in class, 10:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.**