

Spring 2018

Section 2092: MWF 12:50 — 1:40 pm, Anderson 013

Section 0205: MWF 3:00 — 3:50 pm, Pugh 120

Instructor: Aleksandra Tomic, MA

Office: Turlington 4016

Office hours: MF 11:55 am — 2:45 pm, or by appointment

E-mail: a.tomic@ufl.edu

### **Course Description:**

This course is designed to help you acquire a deeper understanding of the Modern English grammar and the terminology pertaining to it. It will assist you in developing an awareness of the interconnectivity of the form/structure, meaning, and use of various grammatical features of the English language. We will examine the prescriptive rules of the English grammar, but also bring awareness to the actual ways speakers of English use the language, i.e. the descriptive rules of English, as well as the way prescriptive and descriptive rules can deviate from each other.

Simultaneously, we will be working on developing a pedagogical perspective on different ways these grammatical features can be taught to learners of English. This will be accomplished by examining modern pedagogical approaches to teaching English as a second/foreign language and developing teaching materials.

**Course Objectives:** By the end of this course you will have acquired the ability to competently describe and explain the phenomena of basic English grammar, such as the characteristics of different word classes and sentence structure types. We will focus on grammar points which learners of English as a second/foreign language often find challenging, such as verb tense and aspect, modal verbs, phrasal verbs, etc. You will also have obtained a broad theoretical knowledge of contemporary language teaching methods, with a focus on Task-Based Language Teaching (TBLT). Apart from the theoretical knowledge, you will have gained experience in creating teaching materials, including task sequences/units, authentic grammar resources, and lesson plans.

### **Course Credit Requirements and Grading**

Homework Assignments	35%
In-class Teaching Demonstration and Observation	20%
Midterm Exam	20%
Final Exam	25%

**Attendance and Participation:** Attendance is mandatory. You are allowed three unexcused absences. Each additional unexcused absence will lower your grade by one letter (e.g. from an A to A—).

**Homework Assignments:** You will submit 5 written homework assignments (each counting as 7% towards your final grade) over the course of the semester. Three assignments, 1, 2, and 5, will require you to complete a grammar exercise demonstrating your knowledge of previously covered grammar structures. The remaining assignments, 3 and 4, will require you to create teaching materials: e.g. a task sequence adopting the TBLT framework designed to cover a particular grammar topic, an adaptation of an authentic text as a grammar resource, etc. Specific details and instructions will be posted on Canvas at least a week prior to the deadline. The homework assignments are due on the dates listed on the schedule below as hard copies in class before class starts. Typed documents are strongly encouraged. Late submissions will not be accepted.

**In-class Teaching Demonstration and Observation:** As a member of a group, you will develop a 35-minute instructional unit on a specific grammar point. You will teach this instructional unit to your peers in class. The instructional unit can be based on TBLT principles, yet other methodologies are welcome as long as they are specified. Your group members will assess your performance in writing using a feedback sheet provided by the instructor. Your group peers' averaged assessments will count as 5% towards your final grade; the instructor's independent assessment of your performance will count as 10% towards your final grade; your observational comments on a demonstration of your choosing will count as 5% of your final grade.

**Midterm and Final Exam:** The midterm exam is scheduled for Friday, 3/2. The final exam is scheduled for the last day of classes, regular classroom and meeting time. There are no make-up exams. If you have an excused absence the day of the exam, please contact the instructor.

#### **Grading scale:**

100–93=A;    92.9–90=A–;  
89.9–87=B+;    86.9–83=B;    82.9–80=B–;  
79.9–77=C+;    76.9–73=C(S); 72.9–70=C–(U);  
69.9–67=D+;    66.9–63=D;    62.9–60=D–;  
59.9–0=E

For information on current UF grading policies for assigning grade points, please go to <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>.

#### **Extra Credit**

There are no extra credit opportunities in this course.

#### **Classroom Etiquette**

Please turn cell phones to silent/airplane mode before entering class. Habitual tardiness is unacceptable in this course. Being more than 7 minutes late to the start of the course will count as an absence after the third tardy.

**Required Materials**

There are no required text books for this class, as we will draw course materials from several resources. All course materials will be made available online or in class.

Nevertheless, two grammar books could be particularly useful resources for future teachers of English:

- Firsten, R., & Killian, P. (2002). *The ELT grammar book: A teacher-friendly reference guide*. Alta Book Center Publishers;
- Celce—Murcia, M. and D. Larsen—Freeman. (1999). *The grammar book*. MA: Heinle & Heinle.

**Accommodations**

Please contact the instructor as soon as possible with any concerns of this type. It is of great importance that everyone's needs are met and that everyone feels comfortable in the class, to facilitate learning and well-being.

Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation. For more information, please go to <<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/>>.

**Academic Integrity**

The UF Honor Code, which all students are required to abide by, reads:

*We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment."* For more information on the UF Honor Code, please go to: <<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/honorcode.php>>.

**Course Schedule\***

Date	Day	Content
1/8	1 M	Introduction and Introductions to Class
1/10	W	Parts of Speech I - Nouns, Adjectives, Pronouns
1/12	F	Parts of Speech I - Nouns, Adjectives, Pronouns Continued
1/15	2 M	<b>No Class (Holiday)</b>
1/17	W	Parts of Speech I - Determiners (Articles)
1/19	F	Parts of Speech I - Determiners (Quantifiers)
1/22	3 M	Parts of Speech II - Verbs, Adverbs
1/24	W	Parts of Speech II - Prepositions
1/26	F	Phrasal Verbs
1/29	4 M	Overview of Teaching Methodologies
1/31	W	Communicative Language Teaching
2/2	F	Introduction to Task-based Teaching: Task Sequences
		<b>Homework 1 Due</b>
2/5	5 M	Sentence Structure/Intro to Syntax I
2/7	W	Sentence Structure/Intro to Syntax II
2/9	F	Sentence Structure/Intro to Syntax III
2/12	6 M	Task-based Teaching: Developing Units
2/14	W	Task-based Teaching: Focus on Form
2/16	F	Lesson Planning + Using Authentic Texts in TBLT
2/19	7 M	Moods + Tense and Aspect
2/21	W	Tense and Aspect
2/23	F	Tense and Aspect
2/26	8 M	Tense and Aspect
		<b>Homework 2 Due</b>
2/28	W	Review for Midterm Exam
3/2	F	<b>Midterm Exam</b>
3/5	9 M	<b>No Class (Spring Break)</b>
3/7	W	<b>No Class (Spring Break)</b>
3/9	F	<b>No Class (Spring Break)</b>
3/12	10 M	Tense and Aspect
3/14	W	Tense and Aspect
3/16	F	<b>In-class Teaching Demonstration: Phrasal Verbs</b>
3/19	11 M	Modal Auxiliaries
		<b>Homework 3 Due</b>
3/21	W	Modal Auxiliaries
3/23	F	<b>In-class Teaching Demonstration: Articles</b>
3/26	12 M	Passive and Causative Constructions
3/28	W	Passive and Causative Constructions
3/30	F	<b>In-class Teaching Demonstration: Tense and Aspect</b>
4/2	13 M	Indirect Speech I

**Homework 4 Due**

4/4	W	Indirect Speech II
4/6	F	<b>In-class Teaching Demonstration: Modal Auxiliaries</b>
4/9	14 M	Relative Clauses I
4/11	W	Relative Clauses II
4/13	F	<b>In-class Teaching Demonstration: Passive Voice</b>
4/16	15 M	Individual Differences and Dynamicity in Learners
4/18	W	<b>In-class Teaching Demonstration: Indirect Speech</b>
4/20	F	What Makes a Great Language Instructor + Wrap-up

**Homework 5 Due**

4/23	16 M	Review for Final Exam
4/25	W	<b>Final Exam</b>
4/27	F	<b>No Class (Reading Day)</b>

\* This schedule is tentative and subject to changes. All changes will be posted on Canvas in a timely manner.