

Fall 2018

MWF Period 7 (1:55 PM – 2:45 PM), Anderson 019

Instructor: Aleksandra Tomic, MA

Office: Turlington B132

Office hours: MF 12:50 PM – 1:40 PM, or by appointment

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Course Description

This course is designed to help you acquire a deeper understanding of Modern English grammar and the terminology pertaining to it. You will develop an awareness of the interconnectivity of the form, meaning, and use of various grammatical structures of the English language. We will examine the prescriptive rules of the English grammar, yet predominantly focus on 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. We will also analyze the way grammatical systems differ from genre to genre, register to register, speaker to speaker.

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 pedagogical approaches to teaching English as a second/foreign language, practicing grammar explanation, and through participation in class activities that you could use as a teacher in your own class.

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, as well as more advanced grammar points which learners of English as a second/foreign language often find challenging. These include determiners, verb tense and aspect, modal verbs. You will also have become acquainted with contemporary language teaching methods, with a focus on Task-Based Language Teaching (TBLT). Apart from the theoretical background on language teaching methodology, you will have gained experience in analyzing texts in terms of grammar structure form, meaning, and use, comparing and contrasting meanings/uses of structures, and creating authentic grammar resources.

Course Credit Requirements and Grading

Homework Assignments	40%
Grammar Explanation Assignment	25%
Authentic Texts Assignments	20%
Attendance	10%
Learner Writing Analysis	5%

Attendance and Participation

Most of your learning will happen in class, during group, partner, and individual activities. You will learn both from the instructor and other students. You will receive one point for each class you attend, and 0.5 points if your level of participation is not satisfactory (using electronics for fun, not contributing to the group discussions, spacing out, etc.). The percentage of attended classes will then be applied to 10 points going to your final grade. In the event of an absence, all assignments are to be turned in on time. Excused absences are counted as a full point.

Homework Assignments

You will submit 5 written homework assignments over the course of the semester. Among other, these assignments will require you to find examples of a grammatical structure, and analyze it in terms of form, meaning, and use. You will also be asked to complete grammar exercises demonstrating your knowledge of previously covered grammar structures. Specific details and instructions will be posted on Canvas at least a week prior to the deadline.

Grammar Explanation

As a member of a group, you will work on a poster explaining a grammar structure of your choosing. You will prepare a poster explaining a grammar structure, present it to your peers in a 20-min poster session, write a reflection paper on the experience, and write a commentary on a poster presentation of your choosing. More info will be posted on Canvas in advance of the assignment. Your group members will assess your performance in writing using a feedback sheet provided by the instructor. Their averaged assessments will count as 5% towards your final grade; the instructor's independent assessment of your performance and poster content will count as 10% towards your final grade; your reflection paper will count as 5% towards your grade; your observational comments on a poster presentation of your choosing will count as 5% of your final grade.

Authentic Text Assignment

You will complete 3 Authentic Text assignments. Authentic Grammar Resource (4%) will require you to find a piece of authentic text illustrating a grammar point, with a brief explanation on why you picked this text and what type of learner this text would be suitable for. Discourse Analysis (8%) will require you to analyze the use(s) or meanings of a certain grammar structure in authentic texts. Finally, Authentic Text Activity (8%) will require you to find a piece of authentic text and create a short grammar activity on the basis of the text.

Learner Writing Analysis

You will receive a copy of a learner writing sample and analyze it in terms of overt grammar errors and genre/register mistakes regarding grammar structure choices. You will have been prepared for this task through similar class activities.

Assignment Submission

The homework assignments are due on the dates listed on the schedule below as electronic copies on Canvas before class starts. All submissions will be graded *anonymously* using Canvas features. Late submissions will not be accepted.

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 class 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>>.

Tentative Course Schedule*

Date	Day	Content
8/22	W	Introduction to the course and individual introductions
8/24	F	Grammars, grammars
8/27	M	Grammar, genres, and registers Turn in Getting to Know You
8/29	W	The Basics: Parts of speech (word classes)
8/31	F	The Basics: Parts of speech (word classes)
9/3	M	Holiday
9/5	W	The Basics: Sentential Structure Homework 1 Due
9/7	F	The Basics: Sentential Structure
9/10	M	Nouns
9/12	W	Determiners - Articles
9/14	F	Determiners - Articles
9/17	M	Determiners - Articles
9/19	W	Determiners – Quantifiers Homework 2 Due
9/21	F	Determiners - Quantifiers
9/24	M	Determiners - Quantifiers
9/26	W	Verbs
9/28	F	Verbs Authentic Grammar Resource Due
10/1	M	Modality, Tense and Aspect
10/3	W	Modality, Tense and Aspect
10/5	F	Modality, Tense and Aspect Homework 3 Due
10/8	M	Present Tense
10/10	W	Present Tense
10/12	F	Present Tense
10/15	M	Past Tense Homework 4 Due

10/17	W	Past Tense
10/19	F	Past Tense
10/22	M	Lesson Planning
10/24	W	Lesson Planning
		Authentic Text Analysis Due
10/26	F	Lesson Planning
10/29	M	Modal Verbs
10/31	W	Modal Verbs
11/2	F	Homecoming
11/5	M	Modal Verbs
		Homework 5 Due
11/7	W	Modal Verbs
11/9	F	Modal Verbs
11/12	M	Holiday
11/14	W	Modal Verbs
11/16	F	Modal Verbs
		Authentic Text Activity Due
11/19	M	Modal Verbs
11/21	W	Holiday
11/23`	F	Holiday
11/26	M	Poster Session
		Learner Writing Analysis Due
11/28	W	Poster Session
11/30	F	Poster Session
12/3	M	Poster Session
12/5	W	What Makes a Great Language Instructor? Discussion and wrap-up
12/10	5 pm	Reflection paper and commentary due

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