[Descriptive] English Grammar – EN 4810 – Fall 2013 – TR 12:30-1:45 – Clark 214

Instructor: Benjamin Torbert, UM-Saint Louis
Contact: btorbert@gmail.com, (314) 236-1259, or FaceBook me
Office: 422 Lucas, office hours TR 11:30-12:30, TR 2:00-3:30 (you are encouraged to visit)


COURSE OBJECTIVES: (a) To understand the workings of morphosyntax (grammar) in both standard and nonstandard English, from a descriptive perspective. (b) To be able to apply these concepts in the analysis of language. (c) To be able to apply your understanding of syntax to the study of literature. The course does not assume that you have any knowledge of a foreign language; however, those who have taken foreign languages will be well served by that experience, and the instructor will use many examples from foreign languages to explain linguistic concepts in English. EN 2810, Traditional Grammar, is a pre-req.

ATTENDANCE: You are allowed two unexcused absences. One point will be deducted from your final grade for each unexcused absence beginning with the third. The difference between excused and unexcused will be determined by the judgment of the instructor alone. Religious holidays are obviously excused. For any missed classes, students will be expected to obtain reliable notes from someone else in the class. For many classes, I will provide a handout, but not for all classes later in the course, as we'll be diagramming on the board by then. I encourage you to do the end-of-chapter exercises but won't assign them.

READING ASSIGNMENTS: Reading assignments are listed on the syllabus and you should complete them before the class during which the assignment appears on the syllabus.

TESTS: There will be three tests and a final exam. Make-ups will only be given in the case of a documented emergency. If a test must be missed on a scheduled exam day, notify me well in advance so that alternate arrangements can be made at the testing center.

GRADING: Participation 10%; 3 tests 20% for 60%; takehome final 30%. Ten point scale. 0-2 -, 7-9 +

ACADEMIC HONESTY: As in all classes at UMSL, students must adhere to University policies about cheating and plagiarism—see http://umsl.edu/studentlife/dsa/student_planner/policies/conductcode.htm

CIVILITY: UMSL lists university policies about our shared responsibilities as teachers and as students for creating a positive environment for learning. Our classroom must be an intellectually safe space. We also need you to display respect for your fellow students. Refrain from using your cell phones in any fashion during class. See http://www.umsl.edu/studentlife/dsa/student_planner/policies/positive.htm.

ACCESS/DISABILITY: Students who have special needs must meet with the campus access office in MSC 144. If you require special accommodations, please meet with me to discuss your needs.

EARLY ALERT: UMSL uses an early alert system to notify students who are struggling academically. I will refer students who make a D or an F on either of the first two tests to the Center for Student Success.

MYGATEWAY: I will place supplemental materials on MyGateway throughout the semester.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Schedule</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>T 8/20</td>
<td>Preliminaries, survey of syllabus, introductions</td>
<td>buy the books</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R 8/22</td>
<td>Overview of Morphosyntax (Grammar)</td>
<td>LeT i-xiii, 1-19</td>
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**Lexical-level grammar**

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<tr>
<th>Schedule</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>T 8/27</td>
<td>Nouns &amp; adjectives</td>
<td>LeT 25-34, 45-47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R 8/29</td>
<td>Verbs: tense, mood, aspect, and voice</td>
<td>LeT 34-56</td>
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<tr>
<td>T 9/3</td>
<td>Verbs &amp; adverbs continued, epistemic tense</td>
<td>LeT 214-222</td>
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<tr>
<td>R 9/5</td>
<td>Pronouns, prepositions, determiners &amp; conjunctions</td>
<td>LeT 63-84</td>
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<tr>
<td>T 9/10</td>
<td>Test I</td>
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**Phrase-level grammar**

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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>R 9/12</td>
<td>Constituency</td>
<td>LeT 89-107</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T 9/17</td>
<td>Intro to Diagramming, Subjects &amp; predicates</td>
<td>LeT 107-111, 115-127</td>
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<tr>
<td>R 9/19</td>
<td>Verb complements</td>
<td>LeT 127-152</td>
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<tr>
<td>T 9/24</td>
<td>Other types of complements</td>
<td>LeT 152-175</td>
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<tr>
<td>R 9/26</td>
<td>Intro to phrase structure, Noun phrases</td>
<td>LeT 180-202</td>
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<tr>
<td>T 10/1</td>
<td>Verb phrases</td>
<td>LeT 202-214</td>
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<tr>
<td>R 10/3</td>
<td>Adjective phrases, prepositional phrases &amp; adverb phrases</td>
<td>LeT 222-242</td>
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<td>T 10/8</td>
<td>Test II</td>
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**Clause-level grammar**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>R 10/10</td>
<td>Intro to clauses &amp; coordinate clauses</td>
<td>LeT 243-269</td>
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<tr>
<td>T 10/15</td>
<td>Adverb clauses &amp; noun clauses</td>
<td>LeT 270-302</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R 10/17</td>
<td>Relative clauses</td>
<td>LeT 302-342</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T 10/22</td>
<td>Relative clauses</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>R 10/24</td>
<td>Nonfinite clauses</td>
<td>LeT 343-375</td>
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<tr>
<td>T 10/29</td>
<td>Nonfinite clauses continued</td>
<td>LeT 375-404</td>
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<td>R 10/31</td>
<td>Test III</td>
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**Applications**

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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>T 11/5</td>
<td>Grammar &amp; fiction, grammar &amp; poetry</td>
<td>LeT 502-542, poems in class</td>
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<tr>
<td>R 11/7</td>
<td>What’s the big deal with Shakespeare…and syntax?</td>
<td>poems in class</td>
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<tr>
<td>T 11/12</td>
<td>Verbal aspect and poetry, especially John Keats</td>
<td>poems in class</td>
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<tr>
<td>R 11/14</td>
<td>Introduction to <em>Syntax as Style</em>, parataxis &amp; hyptotaxis</td>
<td>Tufte skim chs. 1-5, read 6-7</td>
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<tr>
<td>T 11/19</td>
<td>Openers &amp; inversion</td>
<td>Tufte Chapters 8 &amp; 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R 11/21</td>
<td>The appositive, and verbal mood</td>
<td>Tufte Chapters 10 &amp; 11</td>
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11/26-28   | Thanksgiving Break – No Class                                       |            |

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<tr>
<td>T 12/3</td>
<td>Parallelism &amp; cohesion</td>
<td>Tufte Chapters 12-13</td>
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<tr>
<td>R 12/5</td>
<td>Syntactic symbolism</td>
<td>Tute Chapter 14</td>
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W 12/12   | **Take-home Final Due, at Noon CST**; no help from other students is allowed. |            |