

English 3384-001/002
The Structure of Modern English
Fall 2009
MWF 10AM in Preston 210
TR 9:30AM in Preston 210

Dr. Martin
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Office Phone: 817-272-3379
Office Hours: MWF 11-noon
TR 9AM-930AM
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Course Description:

We will examine English grammar, **not** to teach you “proper” grammar but to find out what is unique about the grammar, or structure, of this particular language. In other words, we will discover the rules that govern English, rules we already know as speakers of the language.

Student Learning Outcomes:

By the end of the semester students should be able to analyze the syntax and morphology of most English sentence, both verbally and visually with a tree diagram. Students should also be able to discuss topics in linguistics beyond structural analysis, for example, language processing in the mind and language acquisition in children.

Texts:

A Practice Manual (yellow cover! Available at the UTA Bookstore only)
Steven Pinker, *The Language Instinct*

Supplies:

Graph paper (plenty), pencils, and eraser

Requirements and Evaluation:

3 Tests	20% each
Final Exam	20%
Pinker Assignments	20%

When determining the course grade, I also take into consideration **class participation** and **professional attitude** (improvement over time, punctual arrival, keeping of deadlines, timely communication, etc.)

Makeup tests are given **only** under extenuating circumstances. To discuss the possibility of a makeup test, contact me on or prior to the test day. Extra-credit work is **not** an option.

Attendance:

Since we will be putting together our own grammar textbook through in-class exploration and discussion, attendance is **an absolute must**. If you do have to miss a class, be sure to get thorough notes from a classmate since you are responsible for everything covered and assigned in class.

Tardy arrivals disrupt the class and show disrespect for everyone in the room. Be on time!

No student is automatically dropped from the class. If you wish to drop the class, you have to initiate the process. **Please check MyMav for new regulations on dropping a class.**

Policy on Cheating:

Students who violate University rules on scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the class and dismissal from the University. Since dishonesty harms the individual, all students, and the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced.

Academic Success:

Students desiring assistance academically, personally, or socially are encouraged to contact the Office of Student Success Programs at 817-272-6107.

Students with Disabilities:

The University is required by law to provide “reasonable accommodations” to students with disabilities to prevent discrimination based on that disability. Students are responsible for providing authorized documentation from The Office for Students with Disabilities and for informing faculty of their needs for accommodation.

Syllabus (MWF)

- 08/24 Introduction to Course
- 26 Prescriptive vs Descriptive Grammar
- 28 The Grammar in Our Heads
- 31 What is a sentence?
- 09/02 The Noun Phrase
- 04 and some . . .
- 07 LABOR DAY
- 09 of its modifiers
- 11 The Predicate Phrase
- 14 . . . and some of its modifiers
- 16 Review
- 18 **Test I**
- 21 The PredP cont.
- 23
- 25 Verb Inflection: Tense
- 28 cont.
- 30 Progressive
- 10/02 Auxiliaries
- 05 Modals
- 07 Voice
- 09 cont.
- 12 Imperative
- 14 **Test II**
- 16
- 19 Coordination
- 21 cont.
- 23 Subordination: Adverbial Subclauses

- 26 cont.
- 28 Subordination: Content Phrases
- 30 cont.
- 11/02 Review
- 04 **Test III**
- 06 Wh-Questions
- 09 Subordination: Relative Clauses
- 11 cont.
- 13 Verbal Phrases: Infinitive Phrases
- 16 cont.
- 18 Gerund Phrases
- 20 cont.
- 23 Participial Phrases
- 25 cont.
- 27 **NO CLASS**
- 30 Absolute Phrases
- 12/02 Odds and Ends cont.
- 04 Review
- 10 **FINAL EXAM at 8AM**

Syllabus (TR)

- 08/ 25 Introduction to Course
- 27 “The Grammar in Our Heads”: Prescriptivism vs Descriptivism
- 09/ 01 The Noun Phrase . . .
- 03 and some of its modifiers . . .
- 08 The Predicate Phrase. . .
- 10 and some of its modifiers
- 15 Review
- 17 **TEST I**
- 22 More about the PredP
- 24 Verb Inflections: Tense and Aspect
- 29 cont.
- 10/01 Auxiliaries and Modals
- 06 Voice
- 08 Subjunctive and Imperative
- 13 **TEST 2**
- 15 Coordination
- 20 cont.
- 22 Subordination: Adverbial Subclauses
- 27 Content Phrases
- 29 Cont.
- 11/03 **TEST 3**
- 05 Wh-Questions
- 10 Relative Phrases
- 12 cont.
- 17 Verbal Phrases: Inf P and Ger P
- 19 Verbal Phrases: PartP
- 24 and AbsP
- 26 THANKSGIVING
- 12/01 Odds and ends

04 Review

10 **Final Exam** 8AM