**COM 200**

**First Course Handout**

**Practical Time Slot**: T: 10:00 – 11:00 (Section 1); T: 11.00 – 12.00 (Section II)

**Instructor details**: Sayan Chattopadhyay

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**Course Objective**:

The aim of this course is as follows:

* To go beyond a rote learning of grammar and to use the underlying rules that structure the English language to engage in clutter-free exchanges of thought,
* To have a more nuanced set of vocabulary at one’s disposal which allows for a more precise expression of ideas and emotions,
* To use rules of grammar as an effective toolbox not only to write and speak correctly but also to develop a style of one’s own,
* To be conscious of the commonly made grammar and punctuation mistakes that compromise the clarity of communication, and
* To better structure our presentations, both written and oral, in order to have maximum impact on the audience or the reader.

**Course Contents**:

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| Lay of the Land | Introductory lecture surveying the history of the different modes and media of human communication |
| Avoiding the “almost right” word | Strategies of developing a more nuanced set of vocabulary that will allow us to transition from using “almost right” words to the “right” words which, according to the American novelist Mark Twain, are as different as the lightning bug is from the lightning. |
| Parts of Speech | This lecture will familiarize the student with the different parts of speech and how to use them as building blocks for sentence construction |
| Basic Sentence Structure | A lecture on the basic structure of an English sentence and how that structure can be manipulated and expanded to create more complex forms. |
| Grammatical Tense | A lecture on how to communicate complicated temporal relationships through a proper use of grammatical tense. |
| Active and Passive Voice and Common Errors | An explanation of what is “voice” in an English sentence structure and how to use them in order to produce a compact and precise style of communication. Also, an elaboration on the commonly made grammatical mistakes. |

**Course Policy**

* Each month around two hours of lecture content will be released in the form of videos. These videos will be uploaded on google drive, and a link will be sent to you via your IITK webmail.
* Each student will be assigned to a tutorial section. Tutorial assignments and other tests will be emailed to a student by his/her respective tutor. S/he must complete these assignments and mail them back to the tutors within the specified time window for grading.
* For any queries, you may mail me on my iitk email id mentioned above. Please use “COM 200 Query” as the title of your email, otherwise I might miss opening it.

**Grading:**

**Assignments and exams will constitute a mix of MCQs and subjective answers**

* Tutorial Assignments: 80%
* End-sem: 20%