

English Grammar

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Office Hours: TBD

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Class Hours: TBD

Class Room: TBD

Course Description

This course is designed to introduce students to the field of linguistics, with an emphasis on the English language. In the course of our survey of various linguistics subfields and aspects of language structure and language use, we will focus on the sounds, words, and sentence structures of English as well as on the study of meaning and on the influence of context in the understanding of spoken and written language. Topics to be covered will also include language acquisition, language variation, and the internal and external history of English. Students will thus acquire the basic skills in phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, and pragmatics needed to analyze the English language, being able to put these aspects of English into a social and a historical context. Students will learn how to apply basic analytical techniques to English language data in order to draw conclusions about how English works.

Course Objectives

- Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:
 - Understand what linguistic data is, and be able to approach such data from a linguistic perspective.
 - Analyze English-language data with methods acquired in class.
 - Identify the basic components of English at the levels of sound, structure, and meaning.
 - Describe the sounds of English phonetically and solve basic phonology problems.
 - Understand the composition and derivation of English words.
 - Correctly identify parts of speech and draw simple syntactic trees.

- Understand how meaning is encoded in speech and perform simple discourse analyses.
- Define basic theoretical concepts in psycholinguistics, sociolinguistics, and historical linguistics.
- Question common linguistic misconceptions about the nature of language varieties and their speakers.

Required Text

- Curzan, A., and Adams, M. (2012). *How English Works: A Linguistic Introduction* (3rd ed.). Boston, MA: Longman.

Course Readings

Additional readings will be provided on the course website (or on the teaching page of my website)

Course Policies

- **Attendance and punctuality** — Attendance is a requirement in this course. Although there is no specific penalty for missing a class, you will be held responsible for the content of every lecture and for knowing about assignments. If you should need to miss a class, be certain to check with me (the instructor) to ascertain what you will be missing. If you should miss a class or arrive late, be sure to find out what you missed. It is very important that you come to class **on time**. Failure to do so is disruptive and impacts negatively on the rest of class.
- **Electronic distractions** — Laptops, tablets, and smart phones are almost becoming like extended parts of our bodies; however, please respect the institution of the University, the instructor, and yourself by using electronic devices appropriately. You may use your laptop/tablet to take notes and participate in class activities, but you are required to be responsible with respect to sites visited during class. Further, please silence your cell phones before entering the classroom. Use of any technological devices during the midterm will result in a zero on that exam. Failure to adhere to these policies may result in dismissal from class.
- **Grading of homework assignments** — Grading criteria vary according to the assignment (rubrics for each assignment will be provided on the class website or the teaching tab of my academic website), though you should always aim for originality, relevance (use proper citation methods), style, grammar, and well-crafted presentation of arguments and counter-arguments. It is your responsibility, whether you are present or not, to be aware of due dates and times for assignments ('It's in the syllabus'). Late assignments (when accepted) will be lowered one letter grade (10%) for each day late (including weekend days).
 - No make-up exams will be given.

Grading Policy

- 10% of your grade will be determined by class participation.
- 10% of your grade will be determined by graded homework assignments.
- 25% of your grade will be determined by a mid-term
- 30% of your grade will be determined by a research paper.
- 25% by a final exam.

Grading Scale

A	91.5-100.0	excellent, exceptional
B+	87.5-91.49	very good, admirable
B	81.5-87.49	good, commendable
C+	77.5-81.49	adequate, passable
C	71.5-77.49	marginal
D+	67.5-71.49	unsatisfactory
D	61.5-67.49	more unsatisfactory
F	< 61.49	über unsatisfactory

Course Requirements

- **Participation:** Groups of two or more students will present a research article summary in class once a semester. The presentation must be 15-20 minutes long. The presentation slides must be submitted to Prof. Reed via email at least by the class period before the presentation is scheduled. Late submission reduces the maximum score by 2.5 points for each day that the submission is late.
- **Homework:** There will be around 10 homework assignments designed to allow you to practice the concepts covered in readings and lectures. They will be posted on the class website and/or on the teaching tab at my academic website at least one week prior to the due date. All assignments are due at the beginning of class on the specified date.
- **Exams:** The mid-term will cover the material from the first half of the semester, and the final exam will be cumulative for the entire semester.
- **Research Proposal:** Students will write a research proposal on a English language topic of their choice (for 30% towards their final grade). This class is an introduction to English grammar/linguistics and I will not require that you conduct a fully fledged study (although if you want to, you are very welcome to do so). However, no matter if your orientation is theoretical or practical by the end of the course you should be able to develop your own research proposal. I encourage you to start thinking about your research proposal right away. A list of possible topics will be provided on the class website and/or on the teaching tab of my academic website. Students are strongly encouraged to schedule a meeting with me to discuss possible topics and methods. A 1-page research prospectus outlining

the research topic is due by the date indicated below. In the following weeks you will be working on finding a research method that you think will produce a straight answer to your question. The research papers should be between 10-15 pages long (excluding the cover page, references, and potential appendices), double-spaced, 12-point font, 1-inch margins throughout. The research paper is due by the date indicated in our schedule below.

Academic Dishonesty Policy

You are encouraged to work together, but are expected to do your own work and acknowledge use of anyone else's work or ideas. Academic dishonesty includes: (a) copying another student's work or letting another student copy your work and (b) copying passages or ideas directly from another source and passing them off as your own; that is, without properly referencing them. If you have been academically dishonest, and violated the Honor Pledge and Code (<https://online.odu.edu/policies-and-student-responsibilities>), I will be required to report you to the Office of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity. Each student must write up her/his assignment independently; copying and pasting is not allowed.

If you decide to collaborate with others, please describe the nature of this collaboration, whether in the capacity of having your assignment proofread, receiving assistance with the analysis, or simply 'throwing around ideas'. A brief sentence at the top of your assignment will be sufficient. You will not be 'marked down' if you received assistance, but it is important to acknowledge those who have directly helped you develop your ideas.

Statement on Accommodation

In keeping with Old Dominion University's commitment to non-discrimination and providing program accessibility for qualified students with disabilities, I am happy to provide reasonable accommodation in collaboration and guidance with the Office of Educational Accessibility. Students wishing to make such arrangements should contact the Office at 683-4655.

Week 01, 09/02 - 09/06:

- Day 1: Course Overview/Introduction to Linguistics
- Day 2: Language and Authority
 - **Reading:** Chapter 2

Week 02, 09/09 - 09/13: What is language?

- Day 1: Chapter 1
- Day 2: Reading supplement to chapter 1

Week 03, 09/16 - 09/20: Phonetics

- Day 1: Chapter 3 (pp. 62-76)
 - Homework: Language and Linguistics
- Day 2: Continue discussion

Week 04, 09/23 - 09/27: Phonology

- Day 1: Chapter 3 (pp. 77-89)
 - Homework: Phonetics
- Day 2: Supplement to Chapter 3

Week 05, 09/30 - 10/04: Morphology

- Day 1: Chapter 4
 - Homework: Phonology
- Day 2: Continue discussion

Week 06, 10/07 - 10/11: Syntax 1

- Day 1: Chapter 5
 - Homework: Morphology
- Day 2: Supplement to Chapter 5

Week 07, 10/14 - 10/18: Syntax 2

- Day 1: Chapter 6
 - Homework: Syntax 1
- Day 2: Supplement to Chapter 6

Week 08, 10/21 - 10/25: Review

- Day 1: Review
 - Homework: Syntax 2
- Day 2: Mid-term exam

Week 09, 10/28 - 11/01: Semantics

- Day 1: Chapter 7
- Day 2: Continue discussion

Week 10, 11/04 - 11/08: Pragmatics

- Day 1: Chapter 8
 - Homework: Semantics
- Day 2: Continue discussion
 - Research prospectus due

Week 11, 11/11 - 11/15: Language Acquisition

- Day 1: Chapter 10
 - Homework: Pragmatics
- Day 2: Supplement to Chapter 10

Week 12, 11/18 - 11/22: Language Variation

- Day 1: Chapter 11
 - Homework: Language Acquisition
- Day 2: Chapter 12

Week 13, 11/25 - 11/29: History of English

- Day 1: Chapter 13
 - Homework: Language Variation
- Day 2: Chapter 14

Week 14, 12/02 - 12/06: Review

- Day 1: Review
- Day 2: Review
 - Research Proposals due

Final Exam TBD, 12/09 - 12/13: