LING 4020/5090
Structure of Modern English & Pedagogical Grammar
Fall 2025

Instructor: Dr. Lisa Jeon (Lisa.Jeon@unt.edu)

Office hours: Wednesdays, 1 PM to 2:30 PM, by appointment
Virtual via Zoom or on campus in LANG 409L

Course Description

This course provides an overview of the major aspects of modern English grammar from a linguistic perspective and examines how grammatical concepts can be introduced and reinforced to learners. While all topics and examples are pulled from English, the content of this course is applicable to language in general. So, no matter which language you want to teach, the tools of language analysis and language teaching you learn here will be of help. This includes major world languages, minority languages, indigenous languages, and other language varieties.

Learning Objective and Outcomes

We will cover major aspects of modern English grammar from a linguistic perspective as well as pedagogical methods and best practices for language instruction. After completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Identify and explain the basic structural components of English grammar.
- Identify common problems in the teaching and learning of English grammar.
- Demonstrate appropriate techniques, methods, and best practices in teaching English grammar.

Course Requirements

Course structure and management

Since this course is **100% online and asynchronous**, I recommend accessing the Canvas course ***daily***. Check the schedule, announcements, and discussion boards every time you log in to Canvas for information about discussions, assignments, and meetings.

This course is broken down into weekly lessons, each focusing on 1-2 major grammatical aspects in the English language. The lessons will introduce the concept meta-linguistically and then give examples on common classroom strategies to explain and reinforce the concept. Each lesson will include discussions and/or small activities to practice the content covered.

Throughout this course, we will work in groups and as a whole class. In order to do so harmoniously, we must be respectful of one another. In your discussions and other virtual interactions with fellow students, please refrain from using insulting or derogatory language. If I identify a problem, I'll give one warning. After that, I'll refer students to the department that deals with disciplinary issues. My goal is that we create a forum in which we can all learn from each other and flourish; respect and trust are key elements in achieving this.

Canvas

You can find all the course information, announcements, learning modules, discussions, assignments, and supplemental materials and readings on Canvas: https://unt.instructure.com/.

Teaching Tools Grab Bag

The Teaching Tools Grab Bag module contains a series of different teaching tools and activities that are commonly used with language instruction. This grab bag is meant to be a reference point throughout the semester for you to pull ideas from and some weekly assignments will require you use material from the grab bag.

Technical difficulties

If you experience any issues with Canvas, contact Dr. Jeon immediately to inform her of the problem. Then contact the UIT Student Helpdesk to resolve the issue.

- Email: helpdesk@unt.edu; phone: 940-565-2324

Late assignments

It is your responsibility to keep up with the readings and assignments. You must inform Dr. Jeon in advance of any circumstance that will cause you to miss a discussion or assignment deadline. A 10-point deduction from the total possible points will be given

for each day that an assignment is late. ***There will be no make-ups beyond this except under extreme circumstances.***

Required textbook

- Celce-Murcia, M., & Larsen-Freeman, D. (1999). *The Grammar Book: An ESL/EFL Teacher's Course* (3rd ed.). Boston, MA: Heinle & Heinle. [ISBN-13: 9781111351861]

Recommended texts

- Yule, George. 2014. Explaining English Grammar. Oxford University Press.
- Rinvolucri, Mario and Paul Davis. (1995). *More grammar games: cognitive, affective, and movement activities for EFL students.*

Evaluation

Your course grade will be determined according to the following distribution:

- Weekly Lesson Assignments 30%
- Participation in Online Discussions 20%
- Teaching Preparation Summaries (3) 30% (worth 10% each)
- Final Paper on an English Grammar Topic 20%

I. Weekly Lesson Assignments

Each week's lesson will feature short assignments to reinforce topics learned. These assignments will be due at the end of the week for that lesson. These may be assignments you turn in through Canvas or assignments you post to discussions. The activity instructions will specify how to submit the assignment.

II. Participation in Online Discussions

Participation in this course will include online discussions and lessons for each week's topic. The discussions may cover the week's readings or be online exercises that you will post to a board for peer review. ***You must respond to <u>two (2)</u> of your peers per discussion in order to get full credit.***

Discussion participation is a critical factor for your success in this course and I will keep track of yours. Since discussions are worth 20% of your course grade, I encourage you to contribute thoughtful comments and questions to interact as much as possible with your professor and your classmates.

III. Teaching Preparation Summaries

Three times over the semester, you will write 4-6 pages on some fact about English grammar (example: article usage). This write-up will be a method to help you prepare

for the integration of this grammar point in your ESL teaching. Topics will be assigned. I will also provide a grading rubric and sample answer.

IV. Paper on an English Grammar Topic

You will work individually or with a partner to conduct research on an assigned topic on English grammar. You will decide how to research the topic and which article(s) you will read. The most important part of this activity will be your discussion about the articles you've read. You will then create a summary of your discussion. Make sure this is not just a review of the papers you've read. Integrate your findings. If working in a team, you may collaborate to research your assigned grammar topic and summarize the findings, however ***each student must write up their paper in their own words and submit it individually.***

Course Policies

Academic (dis-)Honesty

Each student is expected to do his or her own work. This is important when posting discussions and for citing research for assignments. Plagiarism and cheating – academic dishonesty – are serious offenses and will not be tolerated in this class. Students who plagiarize or cheat will be referred to the Office of the Provost and will receive a failing grade in the class. For more information on the university's policy on academic dishonesty please consult the UNT Code of Student Conduct at http://www.unt.edu/catalogs/2004-05/upolicies.html. Suspected violations will be investigated.

ADA compliance

The Linguistics Program cooperates with the Office of Disability Accommodation to make reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. If you have a disability, which requires accommodation under the terms of the Americans with Disabilities Act or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, please provide your request by email within the first week so that I can make proper accommodations.

"The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information see the Office of Disability Accommodation website at http://www.unt.edu/oda. You may also contact them by phone at 940.565.4323."

Course schedule *

Week	Date	Topics	Assignments
1	Aug. 18	Δ Course Introduction and Overview Δ Grammatical Metalanguage	📝 Week 1 Assignment 💬 Canvas Discussion • Introduce Yourself • Module 1 Due: Sunday, Aug. 24th @ 11:59 PM
2	Aug. 25	Δ The Lexicon, the Copula, and Subject-Verb Agreement	📝 Week 2 Assignment 💬 Canvas Discussion • Module 2 Due: Sunday, Aug. 31st @ 11:59 PM
3	Sept. 1	Δ Phrase Structure	📝 Week 3 Assignment 💬 Canvas Discussion • Module 3 Due: Sunday, Sept. 7th @ 11:59 PM
4	Sept. 8	Δ Tense and Aspect	📝 Week 4 Assignment 💬 Canvas Discussion • Module 4 Due: Sunday, Sept. 14th @ 11:59 PM
5	Sept. 15	Δ Tense and Aspect (cont.)	📝 Week 5 Assignment 💬 Canvas Discussion • Module 5 ⭐ **Teaching Preparation Summary #1** Due: Sunday, Sept. 22nd @ 11:59 PM
6	Sept. 22	Δ Modals	📝 Week 6 Assignment 💬 Canvas Discussion • Module 6 Due: Sunday, Sept. 28th @ 11:59 PM
7	Sept. 29	Δ Negation	📝📝Week 7 Assignment 💬 Canvas Discussion • Module 7 Due: Sunday, Oct. 5th @ 11:59 PM
8	Oct. 6	Δ Questions and Imperatives	📝 Week 8 Assignment 💬 Canvas Discussion • Module 8 Due: Sunday, Oct. 12th @ 11:59 PM

9	Oct. 13	**Δ** Articles	💬 Canvas Discussion • Module 9 ⭐ **Teaching Preparation Summary #2** Due: Sunday, Oct. 19th @ 11:59 PM
10	Oct. 20	**Δ** Indirect Objects	📝 Week 10 Assignment 💬 Canvas Discussion • Module 10 Due: Sunday, Oct. 26th @ 11:59 PM
11	Oct. 27	**Δ** Prepositions	📝 Week 11 Assignment 💬 Canvas Discussion • Module 11 Due: Sunday, Nov. 2nd @ 11:59 PM
12	Nov. 3	**Δ** Phrasal Verbs	💬 Canvas Discussion • Module 12 ⭐ **Teaching Preparation Summary #3** Due: Sunday, Nov. 9th @ 11:59 PM
13	Nov. 10	**Δ** Subordination and Relative Clauses	📝 Week 13 Assignment 💬 Canvas Discussion • Module 13 Due: Sunday, Nov. 16th @ 11:59 PM
14	Nov. 17	**Δ** Course Review & Reflections **Δ** Team Research & Collaboration	💬 Canvas Discussion • Module 14
15	Nov. 24	**Thanksgiving Break**	
16	Dec. 1	**Δ** Final Paper	⭐ **Final Paper** Due: Monday, Dec. 8th @ 11:59 PM

*Note: This course schedule is a living document and may be subject to change. I will inform you if changes are made.