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California State University—Northridge
English 302: Modern English Grammar

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Textbook (required):

Minimum of English Grammar. (University Readers, 2009) Galasso, Joseph

Ordering and PDF download inquiries online at www.universityreaders.com.

Description:

An undergraduate course in Modern English Grammar: insights gained from traditional, structural, and transformational analyses. Pedagogical implications to the Teaching in the Early School Years are discussed. The course concludes with final remarks on the Nature of Early Child Grammars of English.

Course Objectives:

- (i) To allow students to gain a sufficient amount of *Explicit* Knowledge of Traditional English Grammar concepts
- (ii) To provide students with the tools necessary for understanding Language Structure. The course is divided into three basic levels of language structure: **Word-level** (Lexical), **Phrase-level Morphologies** (Inflectional vs. Derivational), and **Clause/Sentence-level** (Syntax and Transformations). Also, a brief presentation of **Phonology (IPA)** is provided.

The rationale for Ling. 325 is to provide undergraduate students with both theoretical and practical knowledge of English Grammar in order to meet the needs of teachers who plan to teach either English in secondary school programs—including English as a Second/Foreign Language (ESL)—and/or the Language Arts in elementary school programs. The course also serves as a core fundamental prerequisite for those students entering into advanced schemes of linguistics.

Course Objectives:

- Understand (Explicit knowledge) about the structural characteristics of English: its phonological sound system, word structure, and phrase and sentence patterns.
- Learn the terminology used to describe and analyze the structure and systems of English: e.g. Lexical Form-class vs. Structure-class, Finite vs. Non-Finite, Phrasal-features, Participle, Gerund, etc.)
- Understand basic principles of linguistic theory, including some insights into theories of early child grammars.
- Understand how to analyze English data in the contexts of language use.

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Assignments:

- Readings (based on Lectures), Exercises
- Three 'in-class' Exams (one after each of the lectures: bluebook) on relevant lecture topics
- One Paper (3,000 words max.) on an approved topic related in some way to given lecture material

Method of Instruction:

The three lectures are based on material taken from the book: this is accompanied with daily Reading Assignments and Exercises.

Grading: All evaluated work is based on a five point scale:
5 (=A, outstanding), 4 (A/B), 3 (B/C), 2 (C/D), 1(F, failed)

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California State University—Northridge
English 302 Lecture Schedule
Joseph Galasso

Introduction: Opening remarks ‘How to think about grammars of language’.

Lecture I:

Readings

Sounds:

- Intro. Phonology and the English Sound System
- IPA (International Phonetic Alphabet)
- Phonological Rules and Assimilation

Chapter 13

Words:

- Word features
- Morphology
 - Lexical vs. Functional Categories
 - The ‘Sally Experiment’
- Structure vs. Form Class
- Categories and Features
- Noun/Verb Regular vs. Irregular Morphology
- Verb/Noun Inflectional & Derivational Forms
- Lexical Categories
- Functional Categories

Chapters 2-3

§2.1

§3.2

§3.3

§3.4

§3.4.1

§3.4.2

→ Exam 1

Lecture II:

Phrase:

- What is a Phrase?
 - A seven step guide to Phrases
 - Phrase Diagrams
- Nouns:
 - DP Phrases & Features
 - DP Functional Features
 - Case (Pronouns)
 - Person & Number
 - Reflexive Pronouns
- Verbs
 - Infinitive [Non-Finite] Verbs
 - Three Infinitive Verb Forms
 - Three Infinitive Verb Types
 - Main Verb [Finite] Phrases & Features
- Aux Grammars

Chapters 5-6

§5.1

§5.2

§5.3

§5.4

§6

→ Exam 2

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Lecture III:

Sentence/Clause:

- Sentence Structure
- Sentence Types
- Clauses
 - Small Clause
 - Non-Finite
 - Finite
 - Independent & Dependent Clause
 - Subordinate Conjunctions
 - Relative Pronouns
 - Relative Adverbs
 - Wh-words

Chapter 4/Chapter 7

§§4.1-4.4

§7.3.1

§7.2

• Movement & Constituency

- Inflectional movement
- Word-level movement
 - Wh-movement (Question)
 - Auxiliary movement (Question)
 - Phrase-level movement
 - DP-movement Dative Shift
 - Clause-level movement
 - Passive movement
 - Dangling Modifiers

Chapter 8

• A Note on Early Child Grammars

Chapter 11

→ **Exam 3**

Exams:

- 3 Exams based on Lecture Material (Blue book) (t.85%)
- 1 Paper (3,000 word max.) on a selected lecture:
examples/accounts in support of a chosen relevant topic (15%)