California State University—Long Beach
Linguistics 325: Modern English Grammar

Dr. Joseph Galasso
E-mail: joseph.galasso@csun.edu
Home Page: www.csun.edu/~galasso
Office: Psy 401

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

Lecture I:  

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

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  

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  

Readings  
- Chapter 13  
- Chapters 2-3  
- §2.1  
- §3.2  
- §3.3  
- §3.4  
- §3.4.1  
- §3.4.2  
- Exam 1  
- Exam 2
Lecture III:

Sentence/Clause: Chapter 4/Chapter 7
- Sentence Structure
- Sentence Types
  - Clauses
    - Small Clause
    - Non-Finite
    - Finite
    - Independent & Dependent Clause
    - Subordinate Conjunctions
    - Relative Pronouns
    - Relative Adverbs
    - Wh-words

- Movement & Constituency: Chapter 8
  - 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

- A Note on Early Child Grammars: Chapter 11

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%)