

Linguistics 200 – Introduction to English Sentence Analysis

Course Syllabus

Department of Linguistics - Simon Fraser University – Spring 2019

INSTRUCTOR: **DR. MAITE TABOADA**

Class: Mondays 8:30-10:20 am and Wednesdays 8:30-9:20 am, K 9500

Office hours: Mondays and Wednesdays, 1-2 pm

Office: RCB 8109

Phone: 778-782-5585

Course materials, information and announcements: Available through Canvas (canvas.sfu.ca)

TEACHING ASSISTANT: **SANDER NEDERVEEN**

Office hours: Wednesdays 3-4 pm

Office: RCB 9205

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The Teaching Assistant should be your first contact for straightforward questions about the course

Course Description

This course is an introduction to the terminology and concepts in English sentence analysis and grammatical description. Topics to be covered include descriptive vs. prescriptive grammar, identifying parts of speech, phrase structure, clause types, and basic sentence patterns. The course will be of interest to students in the TESL Certificate Program and to those intending to pursue courses in syntax. The skills gained will be helpful in sentence analysis and in the description of errors produced by ESL students. This course also equips you with a deeper understanding of how English sentence structure works, which is useful in academic and professional writing. The course is **not** intended to improve students' general English skills, written or spoken.

Prerequisites

None

Required Texts

- Morenberg, Max (2014). *Doing Grammar (5th edition)*. New York: Oxford University Press. ISBN: 978-0-19-994733-1
- Munro, Murray, Cliff Burgess and Ivelina Tchizmarova (2012) *Introduction to the Description of English Grammar*. Dubuque: KendallHunt. ISBN: 978-1-4652-0542-1

Please note that we will be using the 5th edition of the textbooks. Other editions have different content and pagination.

Recommended Reference Books

The following books are available from the bookstore and from the SFU Library. They have additional information about LING 200 topics and related matters.

- Huddleston, Rodney & Pullum, Geoffrey (2005) *A Student's Introduction to English Grammar*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Swan, Michael (2005, 3rd edition) *Practical English Usage*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Yule, George (1998) *Explaining English Grammar*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- A medium-sized dictionary is useful.

Course expectations

- Students are expected to **attend all classes** and to arrive on time so that classes may begin promptly. Announcements will be made at the beginning and end of classes regarding the assigned readings and the expectations for exams.
- Students are expected to **have read all assigned readings before class**. Because many students will be learning about a new field of study, some of the materials and concepts may seem fairly complex. You should probably read assigned readings and go over the lecture notes multiple times.
- It is very important for students to **participate** in class discussions. Therefore, everyone must come to class prepared. Preparation includes carefully reading of the assigned material, noting any questions that you have, and thinking of how the reading relates to your own personal experiences.
- Students will be **responsible for all materials** covered in the assigned readings and lectures.
- Late assignments will not be accepted.
- Students will be **respectful** of other students and the instructor. In particular, students will not talk while the instructor or another student is talking.
- Students should familiarize themselves with the Department's **Standards on Class Management** and Student Responsibilities at:
<https://www.sfu.ca/linguistics/undergraduate/standards.html>
- **Cell phones**: please make sure that your cell phone (or any other noisy device, including alarms) is turned off during class.
- **Academic dishonesty** in all forms violates the basic principles of integrity and thus impedes learning. More specifically, academic dishonesty is a form of misconduct that is subject to disciplinary action and includes the following: cheating, fabrication, fraud, facilitating academic dishonesty, and plagiarism. For more information on academic honesty and student conduct, please visit the following websites:
<https://www.sfu.ca/students/calendar/2019/spring/fees-and-regulations/student-contract/academic-honesty.html>
<http://www.sfu.ca/policies/gazette/teaching.html>
A grade of "FD" may be assigned as a penalty for academic dishonesty.
Tutors, editors, or any other types of outside help are not allowed. Exceptions are the assistance provided through the Student Learning Commons (see below, under Resources).

- A missed exam means a grade of 0 unless: 1) you are ill on the day of the exam, 2) you have told me so before the exam (via e-mail or phone message), and 3) you give me a medical note as soon as possible after you return to class. In that case, the weight of that exam will be distributed across the other course components. Following departmental policy, no make-up exams are given for missed midterms/quizzes.
- Please note that students requiring accommodations as a result of a **disability** must contact the Center for Accessible Learning (778-782-3112 or caladmin@sfu.ca).
- All student requests for accommodation for **religious practices** must be made in writing by the end of the first week of classes or no later than one week after a student adds a course.

E-mail policy

I strongly discourage the use of e-mail for communication about class matters, and in particular about course content. Messages through Canvas are also an inefficient way to get in touch. Instead, I suggest you come see me during office hours, or catch me right before or after class. You can always call me on the phone if you cannot be on campus during my office hours.

If you are sick and need to miss an exam, please do send me an e-mail message, but do not expect a reply.

Information on copyright

In Canada, copyright law automatically protects written and creative works (e.g., text, art, music or performance), in all formats, as soon as they are created and until 50 years after the creator's death. The creator of the work (i.e., author, composer or artist) often owns copyright, though for published works the publisher may own copyright. A work does not need to be marked with © or a copyright statement to be protected. A copyright protected work cannot be copied (i.e., scanned, printed, downloaded, emailed or photocopied) without the copyright owner's permission, except in certain situations outlined in the *Copyright Act* (see SFU's Fair Dealing Policy for details).

Course materials such as PowerPoint slides, lecture notes, the lecture itself, assignments and exams are all protected by copyright. You are NOT allowed to reproduce them, mail them or upload them to any site for a purpose other than your own study. Selling course materials is a violation of copyright law, and a cheapening of your tuition dollars.

SFU students, faculty and staff are required to abide by Canada's *Copyright Act* as well as SFU's copyright policies. Find information about what this means for students at SFU's copyright website, <https://www.lib.sfu.ca/help/academic-integrity/copyright>, or by contacting the Copyright Office at copy@sfu.ca. If you are copying works, using them in presentations and projects, or sharing them with other students, you should familiarize yourself with the guidelines and limits contained in SFU's Fair Dealing Policy.

Components of the Course

The course consists of lectures, which will also contain practice exercises and important group work. You are supposed to read the corresponding material *before* coming to class. Material to be covered follows the schedule below and will also be announced in class.

In-class exams

Exams are multiple-choice, true-false, and short answer questions about material covered in class. Some of the exam material is written individually, and some of it you will write as part of your group (see below on groups).

Assignments

To be done in groups and submitted through Canvas. Graded Pass or Fail. These assignments will not be graded based on correct answers; rather full credit will be given for turning in *complete* assignments on time. You may not receive credit if the assignment is incomplete or very poorly done. Late assignments will not be accepted.

Attendance and class participation

I will take attendance through Canvas semi-regularly. This will be part of your participation grade. You will also earn participation marks through answering quick quizzes on Canvas and submitting in-class work that is done in groups.

You can also earn participation points by taking part in research in the Linguistics Department. There are two options:

- Research participation. 1 or 2 points per experiment. Please note that the number of points depends on the experiment and is not controlled by the instructor. You may earn a maximum of 2 percentage points for class participation by doing this. See the list of available projects and explanation of the procedures at: http://www.sfu.ca/linguistics/research/research_participation_system.html
- Attendance at colloquia in Linguistics, Cognitive Science, or other colloquia approved by the instructor (2 points each). You may earn a maximum of 2 percentage point for class participation by doing this. For credit, you must send me (via Canvas) a one-sentence summary of something you learned from the talk that could not be gleaned from the abstract alone.

Participation and group work

You will be asked to form groups that will ideally last the entire semester. Please make a group of 4-5 students, and register as a group through Canvas. Within your group, you will:

- Do weekly assignments, to be submitted through Canvas.
- Do in-class exercises that you will have to turn in as groups (graded on a pass/fail basis and part of your participation grade).
- Write parts of your in-class exams, discussing the questions with your group before providing the answer.

Tips for success

In general, students who do well in this course follow these principles:

- Attend class regularly
- Do all assignments and exercises
- Ask questions in class or during office hours
- Keep up with new material
- Maintain a positive attitude
- Participate in study groups

Course Grade

The final grade will be calculated according to the percentages below. The final grade will take into account class attendance and participation (especially for students who are close to the next letter grade).

	DATE	WEIGHT
In-class exam 1	February 11	25%
In-class exam 2	March 11	25%
In-class exam 2	April 8	25%
Assignments	Throughout the semester, P/F	15%
Attendance and participation	Throughout the semester	10%

Percentage scores on assignments and exams will be based on objective criteria. Final letter course grades will be computed from percentage scores on assignments and exams. The following table provides a rough estimate of grade breakdowns for the final grade. Due attention will be given to the verbal descriptions listed below. There is no university-wide standard scale. An instructor adopts a grade scale appropriate to the level and content of the course.

96-100%	A+	Extraordinary performance	66-70%	C+	Satisfactory performance
91-95%	A	Excellent performance	61-65%	C	
86-90%	A-		56-60%	C-	Marginal performance
81-85%	B+	50-55%	D		
76-80%	B	Good performance	< 50%	F	Unsatisfactory performance
71-75%	B-				(fail)

Grade Appeals

If a student wishes to contest the marking of an exam, assignment or paper, the instructor can agree to remark his/her entire exam at the instructor's convenience and not in front of the student. A grade reconsideration may raise the grade, lower the grade, or leave the grade unchanged, as stated in Policy T20.01, clause 2.4.

Grade appeals must be made in writing. An exam written in pencil cannot be re-assessed.

The only reason a grade change will be made is if there is an arithmetic error or if it has been determined that the exam, assignment or paper deserves a lower grade or a higher grade after it has been remarked.

The following *are not* reasons for reconsideration of a grade:

- The student is on probation.
- The student wants to get into Business or any other program.
- The student worked hard and thinks this should be a factor.
- The student does not like the grade scale.
- The student's score is x% below the next grade and would like the instructor to ignore the difference.

Resources

A number of resources are available to the students in the class.

The SFU Learning Commons is available to all SFU students, and provides assistance with learning, academic writing and reading strategies (<http://learningcommons.sfu.ca/>).

All the class material will be available through canvas (<https://canvas.sfu.ca/>). Please check it frequently, and make sure you avail yourself of all the tools that you may need.

Topics and schedule of readings

The following list is **subject to change**; you should always consult the Canvas version of the syllabus and schedule.

“B” refers to chapters in the Morenberg textbook; “W” to chapters in the Munro et al. workbook. Assignments are the exercises at the end of the respective Munro et al. workbook. “Complete” means that you are supposed to have tried to answer the questions in the workbook before checking the answers. We will go over some of them and you can ask questions in class.

Week	Date	Topic	Read (before class)	Complete assignment (Munro et al. workbook)
1	Jan. 7	Introduction	B Preface, W 1	
	Jan. 9	Parts of speech	B 1	1
2	Jan. 14	Parts of speech (cont.)	W 2	2
	Jan. 16	Parts of speech (cont.)	W 3	3
3	Jan. 21	Verb types	B 2, W 4	4
	Jan. 23		W 5	5 + Assignment 1 due

4	Jan. 28 Jan. 30	Verb phrases	B 3, W 6, 7	6, 7
5	Feb. 4 Feb. 6	Sentence structure Review		
6	Feb. 11 Feb. 13	In-class exam 1 Noun phrases	B 4, W 8	8
7		<i>Feb. 18-22 Family Day + Reading Break</i>		
8	Feb. 25 Feb. 27	Noun phrases (cont.) Other phrases		Assignment 2 due
8	Mar. 4 Mar. 6	Rearranging & compounding Relative clauses	B 5, W 9, 10, 11 B 6, W 12	9, 10, 11 12
9	Mar. 11 Mar. 13	In-class exam 2 Reducing relative clauses	B 7	
10	Mar. 18 Mar. 20	Noun clauses, adverb clauses Non-finite verbals	B 8, W 13 W 14, 15	13 14, 15 + Assignment 3 due
11	Mar. 25 Mar. 27	Clauses, review Sentence modifiers	W 16, 17 B 9	16, 17
12	Apr. 1 Apr. 3	Grammar in ESL/EAL teaching Review	B 10	18 Assignment 4 due
13	Apr. 8	In-class exam 3		