

LINGUISTICS 200 – INTRODUCTION TO THE DESCRIPTION OF ENGLISH GRAMMAR

Course Syllabus

Department of Linguistics - Simon Fraser University – Fall Semester 2009

INSTRUCTOR: **DR. MAITE TABOADA**

Class: Tuesdays 4:30-7:20 AQ 3005

Office hours: Tuesdays 2-4 – Wednesdays 10-12

Office: RCB 8206

Phone: 778-782-5585

Course Web Page: <http://www.sfu.ca/~mtaboada/ling200/ling200.html>

(Check frequently for new material and announcements)

TEACHING ASSISTANT

David Potter is the Teaching Assistant for this course. He should be your first contact for straightforward questions about the course. Office hours and contact information will be announced the first week of classes, and posted on the web site.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is an introduction to the terminology and concepts in English 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. The course is not intended to improve students' general English skills, written or spoken.

PREREQUISITES

None

REQUIRED TEXTS

Morenberg, M. (2002) *Doing Grammar*. New York: Oxford. (3rd edition).

I will distribute exercises through the web site.

RECOMMENDED REFERENCE BOOKS

Spears, R. (1997) *NTC's Guide to Grammar Terms*. Lincolnwood, Ill.: NTC.

Swan, M. (1995) *Practical English Usage*. Oxford: OUP. (New edition).

A medium-sized dictionary is also 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 and assignments.

1. Students are expected to have read all assigned readings *before class*. Because many students will be learning about a new field of study in this class, some of the materials and concepts may seem fairly complex. In such cases, students should read assigned readings and go over the lecture notes multiple times.
2. Students will be responsible for all materials covered in the assigned readings and lectures.

3. Students will be respectful of other students and the instructor. In particular, students will not talk while the instructor or another student is talking. Please turn off your cell phone, alarm, laptop speakers, or anything else that will cause a disruption in the class.
4. Students should familiarize themselves with the Linguistics Department's Standards on Class Management and Student Responsibilities at:
<http://www.sfu.ca/linguistics/undergraduate/standards.html>
5. 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.
Tutors, editors, or any other types of outside help are not allowed. Exceptions are the assistance provided by the TA, peers in the class, and through the Student Learning Commons (see below, under Resources).

For more information on academic honesty and student conduct, please visit the following websites:

<http://students.sfu.ca/calendar/GeneralRegulations.html>

<http://www.sfu.ca/policies/teaching/index.htm>

If a student is found guilty of plagiarism or other form of academic dishonesty on a class paper, an assignment, or an exam, an academic dishonesty report will be written for that student. This report is filed in the department. The student receives a grade of zero for the paper, assignment, or exam. If more than one academic dishonesty report has been filed for a student, the case can be presented to the University Board on Student Discipline.

6. 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. A sample form is available at <http://students.sfu.ca/forms/GenIHCPform.pdf>. 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.
7. Under no circumstances will students be allowed to write the final exam early. If you have travel plans or career plans in December, you are responsible for ensuring that they do not conflict with the final examination schedule.
8. Please note that students requiring accommodations as a result of a disability must contact the Center for Students with Disabilities (778-782-3112 or csdo@sfu.ca).
9. 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. Instead, I suggest you come see me during office hours or call me if you cannot be on campus during my office hours. I will have extended office hours during the week (4 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.

COMPONENTS OF THE COURSE

The course consists of lectures, which will also contain some practice exercises. 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.

Assignments will be distributed each week. These assignments will not be collected or graded, but you are expected to complete them before the following class. The answers will be posted on the course web page. The assignments are a very important part of the course, and it is in your best interest to complete them before looking up the answers.

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
- You can also think of forming study groups, to work on assignments together, or to discuss the readings.

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).

There will be three in-class quizzes and a final exam. Most of these will contain exercises with different types of questions, such as multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank and short answer.

	DATE	WEIGHT
Quiz 1	October 6	20%
Quiz 2	October 27	20%
Quiz 3	November 17	20%
Final Exam	Dec. 9, 7-10 pm, place TBA	40%

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 IV.2.

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/>).

The course web page also lists a number of website and resources, and a list of frequently asked questions about this course. 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 web version of the syllabus and schedule.

"ch." refers to chapters in the Morenberg textbook. "Assignment due" means that you are supposed to have done the assignment and checked the answers before coming to class. You can ask questions about it in class.

Week	Date	Topic	Read (before class)	Assignment due
1	Sept. 8	Introduction Parts of speech	Preface ch. 2 (pp. 25-33)	1 – Grammar
2	Sept. 15	Parts of speech (cont.) Verb types	ch. 1	2 – Parts of speech
3	Sept. 22	Sentence structure	ch. 2 (pp. 33-49)	3 – Verb types
4	Sept. 29	Verb phrases	ch. 3	4 – Sent. structure 5 – Verb phrases

5	Oct. 6	Quiz 1 Noun phrases	ch. 4	
6	Oct. 13	Other phrases		6 – Noun phrases
7	Oct. 20	Rearranging & compounding	ch. 5	7 – Other phrases
8	Oct. 27	Quiz 2 Relative clauses	ch. 6	8 – Rearr. & comp.
9	Nov. 3	Reducing relative clauses	ch. 7	9 – Relative cl.
10	Nov. 10	Noun clauses, adverb clauses	ch. 8	10 - Subordination
11	Nov. 17	Quiz 3 Summary, clauses		
12	Nov. 24	Non-restrictive modifiers	ch. 9	11 – Error analysis
13	Dec. 1	Review	ch. 10	12 – Non-restr. mod.
	Dec. 9 (Wed.)	Final exam , 7-10 pm, Place TBA		