

Linguistics 200 – Introduction to the description of English grammar

Course Syllabus

Department of Linguistics - Simon Fraser University – Spring 2014

INSTRUCTOR: **DR. MAITE TABOADA**

Class: Mondays 10:30-12:20 and Wednesdays 10:30-11:20, BLU 9660

Office hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 9:30-10:20

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Phone: 778-782-5585

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

TEACHING ASSISTANT: **Ms. EMMA MILEVA**

Office hours: Tuesdays 2-3 pm

Office: RCB 9208

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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 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, Max (2010). *Doing Grammar (4th edition)*. New York: Oxford University Press. ISBN: 978-0-19-538729-2
- Munro, Murray, Cliff Burgess and Ivelina Tchizmarova (2011) *Introduction to the Description of English Grammar*. Dubuque: KendallHunt. ISBN: 978-1-4652-0542-1

Please note that we will be using the 4th edition of the textbooks. Other editions have different content and pagination.

Recommended Reference Books

The following books are available in the Reserves section of 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.
- Assignments are **due at the beginning of class**. 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:
<http://www.sfu.ca/linguistics/undergraduate/student-resources/department-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:
<http://students.sfu.ca/calendar/student-info/academic-honesty.html>
<http://www.sfu.ca/policies/gazette/teaching.html>
Please complete the library's plagiarism tutorials:
<http://www.lib.sfu.ca/help/tutorials/plagiarism-tutorial>
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.

- Under no circumstances will students be allowed to write the final exam early. If you have travel plans or career plans in April, you are responsible for ensuring that they do not conflict with the final examination schedule.
- 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).
- 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. 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.

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 are scheduled for each week. These assignments will not be collected or graded, but you are expected to complete them before the following class. 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
- Participate in 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	February 3	20%
Quiz 2	March 3	20%
Quiz 3	March 24	20%
Final Exam	Tuesday, April 22, 8:30 am, 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 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 (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 web version of the syllabus and schedule.

"ch." refers to chapters in the Morenberg textbook. Assignments are the entire chapters from the Munro et al. workbook. "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
1	Jan. 6	Introduction	Preface	
	Jan. 8	Parts of speech	ch. 2 (pp. 22-35)	1
2	Jan. 13	Parts of speech (cont.)		2
	Jan. 15	Verb types	ch. 1	3
3	Jan. 20	Sentence structure	ch. 2 (pp. 35-48)	4, 5, 6
	Jan. 22			
4	Jan. 27	Verb phrases	ch. 3	7
	Jan. 29			
5	Feb. 3	Quiz 1		
	Feb. 5	Noun phrases	ch. 4	8

Feb. 10-14 Reading Week

6	Feb. 17 Feb. 19	Other phrases		
7	Feb. 24 Feb. 26	Rearranging & compounding	ch. 5	9, 10, 11
8	Mar. 3 Mar. 5	Quiz 2 Relative clauses	ch. 6	12, 16
9	Mar. 10 Mar. 12	Reducing relative clauses	ch. 7	
10	Mar. 17 Mar. 19	Noun clauses, adverb clauses	ch. 8	13, 14, 15
11	Mar. 24 Mar. 26	Quiz 3 Summary, clauses		16
12	Mar. 31 Apr. 2	Sentence modifiers	ch. 9	17
13	Apr. 7 Apr. 9	Review	ch. 10	18
	Apr. 22 (Tues.)	Final exam , 8:30 am, Place TBA		