

Syllabus - LING 3500-090 Online - Summer 2025

Course name: Introduction to English Grammar

Instructor: Vicky Wason

Office: LNCO 2930

Office Hours: by appt. - I am happy to interact with you about the course content or other questions you might have about your studies or challenges you face during the course. Please contact me if you think I may be able to help.

E-mail address: vicky.wason@utah.edu and Canvas

Reasons for taking the course

- Because you are interested in learning about English grammar
- To fulfill the requirements for the TESOL Certificate
- As an elective for a degree in Linguistics

Required text

Barry, A.K. (2013). *English grammar: language as human behavior*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, **3rd Edition**.

Optional text (for additional support)

Teschner, Richard V. with Eston E. Evans (2007). *Analyzing the Grammar of English*. Washington, DC: Georgetown University Press, **3rd Edition**.

Course structure

- This course is taught fully online.
- The course is entirely asynchronous, meaning that there is no real-time interaction between you and the instructor.
- The course material is organized by modules. You will move through the modules in sequence.

- To help you anticipate assignment due dates, **all assignments are due on Sundays by 11:59 pm unless otherwise stated**. The Sunday due dates for specific assignments on our Canvas class calendar.

Course objectives

- Main objectives
 - To offer you a clear and engaging overview of the forms and functions of English grammatical structures. Gaining a solid understanding of English grammar can be especially helpful for writers, core English teachers, ELL teachers, and anyone who wants to become more aware of the patterns and regularities that shape the English language.
 - That you will become familiar with the technical language used to describe the structure of English. Building this knowledge can boost your professional credibility by allowing you to communicate clearly and precisely about English grammar. It will also give you a strong foundation for reading and understanding professional literature and online resources about the English language.
 - Since this is an introductory course with lots of detailed information, the main goal is to give you skills and help you practice finding information when you need it. You'll be tested on your ability to locate content using the course materials (open textbook), rather than recalling it from memory, searching online, or creating new content on your own.
- Other objectives
 - To introduce you to language as a human behavior: as humans, we subconsciously use the patterns and regularity that exist in language systems, we use language to communicate our needs and wishes, we use language to exercise power over others, and we experience linguistic insecurity in the face of social judgments.
 - You'll get helpful guidance in standard usage, giving you the tools to make informed choices in your writing and speaking, and helping you feel more confident about those choices.
 - You'll be encouraged to see yourself as an active participant in shaping your language, rather than feeling bound by grammatical rules set by others.

- Most importantly, I hope to spark your curiosity about the amazing nature of language — and invite you to notice and appreciate its wonders in your everyday life.

Main topics covered in the course

- What is grammar, and why do we study it?
- How do we study English grammar?
- English grammatical structures
 - Nouns and noun phrases
 - Verbs and verb phrases
 - Pronouns
 - Adjectives and adverbs
 - Prepositions and particles
 - Negation
 - Voice (active and passive)
 - Discourse function (declaratives, interrogatives, etc.)
 - Combining clauses in sentences: coordination
 - Combining clauses in sentences: subordination

Learning opportunities

- Readings in course text
 - This is the best text I have ever found for this course. The text provides a beautifully written, discourse-based version of the analysis of English grammar. It also helps you feel you are active participants in shaping your language rather than passive victims of grammar rules that someone imposes on you.
 - The text is used in this course in two ways:
 1. For most students, **reading the text prior to viewing the video and looking at the PowerPoint** presentations will make it much easier to understand the content of our class. Learning from the video PowerPoint lectures and handouts will probably be more difficult if you have not read the text in advance.

2. To provide our information for our discussions of language usage and change. Discussions will deepen your understanding of English grammar as well as providing a basis for the "Discussion-posting and Discussion Responding" assignments for which you will earn points.

Attendance and participation

- Students are expected to check Canvas regularly (at least twice a week) and to participate in on-line discussions. Students are expected to, most every week, write and make original posts as well as respond to others' original on the Canvas discussion board.

Tests

- All exams will be in Canvas and have a time limit. You may take each exam only once, and it must be taken online within the announced time framework. You will also receive a Study Guide for each exam, and you will earn extra credit if you complete the Study Guide BEFORE the exam.

Homework

- Students are expected to complete regular readings and homework assignments. This is an upper-division class, so you will be expected to complete a reasonable amount of homework. All homework must be typed and submitted via Canvas. Homework for a given week is always due by **Sunday at 11:59pm** unless otherwise specified.

Discussions

- We will have the following structure for discussions: I will ask you to post something as a discussion, and then I will ask you to read and respond to others in your discussion group. You can respond to anyone whom you can see in the post. You will post your answers one week and then a week later the response post is due. I can only put one due date for the assignment (Canvas rule). You should get into a routine with responding to discussions by each Sunday night.

Policy Regarding Late Assignments

- Late work may be accepted for partial credit if prior arrangements have been made with the instructor. Makeup tests will not be given.

Academic Honesty

- Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated. Students who cheat or plagiarize may be expelled from the university. If you are not sure about what is considered cheating or plagiarism, please discuss this with your instructor before getting outside help.

Communicating with the Instructor

- It is preferred that you communicate with your instructor via Canvas. However, if you have an urgent question, feel free to use your instructor's University of Utah e-mail. If you have any questions about the material discussed in the presentations, post your questions on the on-going discussion board on Canvas.

Grading Criteria

- Your final grade will be a composite of the work you have done for this course. Each component of the course will be weighted according to the following percentages:
- Homework, Practice Quizzes and Discussions – 30%, Exams – 45%, Final exam – 25%
- ***Incomplete grades:*** Incomplete grades will NOT be given in this class.
- Please refer to <https://uonline.utah.edu/> if you have any questions about UOnline courses.
- Final grades will be assigned according to the following percentages which are the University of Utah grading standards.
 - A 94%-100%
 - A- 90%-93.9%
 - B+ 87%-89.9%
 - B 84%-86.9%
 - B- 80%-83.9%
 - C+ 77%-79.9%
 - C 74%-76.9%
 - C- 70%-73.9%
 - D+ 67%-69.9%
 - D 64%-66.9%
 - D- 60%-63.9%

- E 0%-59.9%

Canvas help

- Instructors are not equipped to deal with Canvas Technology.
- A Canvas infrastructure telephone hotline, available 24/7, is available to help you with Canvas questions.
- The hotline number is as follows: 844-527-0328.
- When you are logged into Canvas, click on the Help button at the bottom of the far left column and you will see a list of many U of U resources available to you.

Exceptions

- Exceptions to the above course policies will only be given at the instructor's discretion. You will have a better chance of getting an exception if you contact the instructor before the situation arises. The instructor will generally only grant exceptions to those students who, in her judgment, tried to follow the course policies but were prevented by legitimate circumstances beyond their control.

University of Utah Policies

ChatGPT and other AI tools:

- It is expected that students will adhere to generally accepted standards of academic honesty, including but not limited to refraining from cheating, plagiarizing, misrepresenting one's work, and/or inappropriately collaborating. This includes the use of generative AI tools that have not been cited or documented or authorized. Students will also be expected to adhere to the prescribed professional and ethical standards of the profession/discipline for which the student is preparing.
- If students choose to use these tools in some capacity related to homework, they must make evident any portion of the work generated by the AI tool and which an AI tool was used. The university anticipates a new wave of remarkable creativity and curiosity among students—there has never been a more exciting time to be a student at a university!

- Any student who engages in academic dishonesty or who violates the professional and ethical standards for the profession/discipline for which the student is preparing, may be subject to academic sanctions as per the University of Utah's Student Code:

<http://regulations.utah.edu/academics/6-400.php>

Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA)

The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services, and activities for people with disabilities.

All written information in this course can be made available in an alternative format with prior notification to the [Center for Disability & Access](#) (CDA). CDA will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations. Prior notice is appreciated. To read the full accommodations policy for the University of Utah, please see Section Q of the [Instruction & Evaluation regulations](#).

In compliance with ADA requirements, some students may need to record course content. Any recordings of course content are for personal use only, should not be shared, and should never be made publicly available. In addition, recordings must be destroyed at the conclusion of the course.

If you will need accommodations in this class, or for more information about what support they provide, contact:

Center for Disability & Access

801-581-5020

disability.utah.edu

**Third Floor, Room 350
Student Services Building
201 S 1460 E
Salt Lake City, UT 84112**

Safety at the U

The University of Utah values the safety of all campus community members. You will receive important emergency alerts and safety messages regarding campus safety via text message. For more safety information and to view available training resources, including helpful videos, visit safeu.utah.edu.

To report suspicious activity or to request a courtesy escort, contact:

Campus Police & Department of Public Safety

801-585-COPS (801-585-2677)

dps.utah.edu

1735 E. S. Campus Dr.

Salt Lake City, UT 84112

Addressing Sexual Misconduct

Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender (which includes sexual orientation and gender identity/expression) is a civil rights offense subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories such as race, national origin, color, religion, age, status as a person with a disability, veteran's status, or genetic information.

If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you are encouraged to report it to university officials:

Title IX Coordinator & Office of Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action

801-581-8365

oeo.utah.edu

135 Park Building

201 Presidents' Cir.

Salt Lake City, UT 84112

Office of the Dean of Students

801-581-7066

deanofstudents.utah.edu

270 Union Building

200 S. Central Campus Dr.

Salt Lake City, UT 84112

To file a police report, contact:

Campus Police & Department of Public Safety

801-585-COPS (801-585-2677)

dps.utah.edu

1735 E. S. Campus Dr.

Salt Lake City, UT 84112

If you do not feel comfortable reporting to authorities, the U's Victim-Survivor Advocates provide free, confidential, and trauma-informed support services to students, faculty, and staff who have experienced interpersonal violence.

To privately explore options and resources available to you with an advocate, contact:

Center for Campus Wellness

801-581-7776

wellness.utah.edu

350 Student Services Building

201 S. 1460 E.

Salt Lake City, UT 84112

Academic Misconduct

It is expected that students comply with University of Utah policies regarding academic honesty, including but not limited to refraining from cheating, plagiarizing, misrepresenting one's work, and/or inappropriately collaborating. This includes the use of generative artificial intelligence (AI)

tools without citation, documentation, or authorization. Students are expected to adhere to the prescribed professional and ethical standards of the profession/discipline for which they are preparing. Any student who engages in academic dishonesty or who violates the professional and ethical standards for their profession/discipline may be subject to academic sanctions as per the University of Utah's Student Code: **[Policy 6-410: Student Academic Performance, Academic Conduct, and Professional and Ethical Conduct.](#)**

Plagiarism and cheating are serious offenses and may be punished by failure on an individual assignment, and/or failure in the course. Academic misconduct, according to the University of Utah Student Code:

“...Includes, but is not limited to, cheating, misrepresenting one’s work, inappropriately collaborating, plagiarism, and fabrication or falsification of information...It also includes facilitating academic misconduct by intentionally helping or attempting to help another to commit an act of academic misconduct.”

For details on plagiarism and other important course conduct issues, see the U's **[Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities.](#)**