LING 4339-640 English Grammar Syllabus
Department of Languages, Cultures, and Communication
Stephen F. Austin State University
Fall 2020 • TR 12:30-1:45 p.m. • Hybrid/D2L & Zoom

Professor
Dr. Jessie Sams
Email
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Remind
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Virtual office hours
MT 2:00-3:30 p.m.
W 1:00-3:00 p.m.
by appointment

Required text: Grammar in Real Life: #itdepends (chapters will be made available on D2L)

Course description
Investigation of grammatical form and function in natural written texts, focusing on modern American English, and application of grammatical features to textual analyses, such as using grammatical features to describe genre or stylistics.

Student Learning Outcomes
By the end of this course, students will be able to
1. identify the goals of the major subfields of linguistic study: phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, pragmatics.
2. apply a variety of methods for analyzing naturally-occurring language texts.
3. justify the approaches taken to analyze those texts.
4. synthesize researched information from scholars with their own original data analyses.
5. create a final product that demonstrates an understanding of the concepts learned throughout the semester and incorporates aspects of both synthesis and analysis.

Course policies and requirements
The two overarching principles for the course are provided below; these principles are reflected in all the course policies:
(a) Adults make arrangements.
(b) Poor preparation on your part does not constitute an emergency on my part.

Student policies
1. Stay on top of the course schedule and course material, all of which will be posted or linked to on our course’s D2L/Brightspace page. All content will be posted in weekly modules.
2. Actively participate in Zoom group discussions.
3. Keep track of due dates and start the work early. All work is due prior to 11:59 p.m. Central on the due date listed.
4. Know when you need help and get help early and often.
5. Track your grades and course progress on D2L.
6. Be considerate. Communicate with classmates professionally and respectfully. Any disrespectful behavior will result in a failing grade; depending on the severity of the disrespect, you may be failed for the entire course. Keep it classy.
7. Communicate, and check your SFA email regularly. The best ways I have of getting in touch with the class are your school email address and Remind; those are also the best methods for getting in touch with me. Remind is the fastest method, as my phone alerts me when I have a new Remind message, and I check those regularly throughout the day. I tend to check email only once or twice a day and only Monday-Friday.
8. Set your priorities, and manage your time accordingly without excuses or apologies. As the old adage goes, “If it is important to you, you will find a way. If it is not, you will find an excuse.”
You never need to apologize to me for having higher priorities than a course. Be kind to yourself if you need to prioritize differently during the semester, and remember that your grade does not define you. You are much more than a grade.

Office hours
During my virtual office hours, I will be readily available via email and Remind. If you want to meet with me, which I highly encourage you to do when you have questions or concerns, you need to send me a message on Remind or an email to schedule a meeting, and we will meet on Zoom. You never need to apologize for having questions. I am happy to visit with you multiple times about the same concept or skill until you feel comfortable completing the work on your own.

Attendance
In this course, attendance will be measured by active participation in and completion of course assignments.

Online access requirements
You will need access to D2L/Brightspace and Zoom to be an active member of our course, and I encourage you to join Remind for additional course participation (though it is not required).

- D2L/Brightspace is the online learning management system used by SFA.
- As an SFA student, you have access to the full Zoom capabilities: go to sfasu.zoom.us and use your SFA credentials to sign in.
- Remind is an app that allows for text message-like communication between students and teachers without sharing personal phone numbers. You can access Remind in multiple ways: online with email notifications, an app downloaded to your phone, or your phone’s native text messaging system. If you download the app, you can select the style and number of notifications you receive, including being notified via the app and email both. I will use Remind to send out course announcements, and you can use Remind to send me quick questions. Because they appear on my phone like text messages, I receive messages from Remind more quickly than I do emails, and it is a convenient way for you to receive a quick response. If your question is too in-depth for me to answer via Remind, I may ask you to schedule a Zoom meeting to get a full response.

How to join Remind
If you are using the Remind app or create an account online, you can join using the course code (@ling4339). If you are using your text messaging system to join remind, you need to compose a text message to 81010; in the body of the text message, you need to type the course code:

@ling4339

Once you have typed the course code, send the text, and you will receive a confirmation text message.

Assignments
This semester, you will be graded on three areas.

(1) Biweekly group work
During the first week of classes, I will assign you to a group. Throughout the rest of the semester, you will meet with your group twice a week to compare work on assigned activities. To receive credit for this work, you will need to have completed your own answers and actively participate in the group discussion while identifying the best answers.

(2) Weekly quizzes
Every week, you will have a take-home annotation quiz to complete.
**Unit work**
You will have three sets of unit work to complete throughout the semester, each of which targets concepts from six chapters in the book. You will receive more detailed guidelines during the semester.

**Honor's contract**
If you would like to complete an honor’s contract for this course, you will complete an annotation project due during Finals week.

**Grading**
Each assignment will be graded out of a score of 100; each major assignment area is weighted differently:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Weightage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Group work</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weekly quizzes</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit work</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

I round all grades to the nearest tenth of a decimal point and then assign letter grades according to the following scale of percentages:

A 90-100 Earning an A indicates the student mastered all the necessary concepts and skills for the course and exceeded expectations on submitted work throughout the semester.

B 80-89.9 Earning a B indicates the student did well with all necessary concepts and skills for the course and mastered some of them; it also indicates the student exceeded expectations on some assignments/tests but not others.

C 70-79.9 Earning a C indicates the student did well with some of the concepts and skills but not as well with others; it also indicates the student met all required guidelines throughout the course. In other words, a C is the average grade.

D 60-69.9 Earning a D indicates the student did not do well with a majority of the concepts and/or skills required for the course; it also indicates that not all minimum requirements or standards were met throughout the semester.

F 0-59.9 Earning an F indicates the student regularly did not meet minimum requirements or standards.

Final grades are final. Grades do not reflect my personal feelings about students, nor do they reflect students’ personal worth; they solely reflect a student’s demonstrated mastery of the concepts and skills introduced in class through completed work on assignments.

**D2L submission policies**
You will be using D2L to submit all work, and the following policies apply to all D2L submissions.

1. Make sure you submit the correct version of the correct document to the correct dropbox.
2. Check that your submission was successful—you should get into the practice of checking for successful submissions in your dropbox area.
3. Complete and submit written work in a Microsoft Word document. SFA students receive Microsoft Office for free; you need to download it (do not rely on the online app version) and use it complete work for this course.
4. Make sure your document looks the way it should—I can only assess what I can see.
   a. If you want to include an image, add a 1x1 table in the document where you want the image, and put the image into the table cell. That will keep it in place. Do not attempt “wrap text” around the table/image, as that will likely result in a free-floating image.
   b. Use headers to insert your last name and page numbers.
c. Liberally use YouTube and Google to learn how to use Word’s features.

5. Only one document is allowed per submission, so if there are multiple parts of an assignment, make sure they are all in one document.

6. Unless otherwise indicated, all dropboxes are set so that only the most recent submission is kept; every new submission to that dropbox overwrites any earlier submissions, so the only document I see when I grade is the final one that was successfully submitted. Use this to your advantage and submit rough drafts often, so if something goes wrong, you at least know you have submitted something to be graded.

7. Submissions may take a while to upload—it could even take a few hours, depending on your file size and internet speed. When the dropbox closes, it only retains the submissions that were successfully completed prior to its closing. If you are in the process of submitting a document when it closes, your submission will be lost. This is another reason I encourage you to submit drafts as you work.

Post-semester policy
You need to download any documents you need from our course’s D2L, whether you want to retain content or assignments you submitted. The D2L course closes a week after the semester concludes, and you will no longer have access to the course after that time. Make sure you have checked grades and feedback prior to its closing.

SFA Policies
Acceptable student behavior
Classroom behavior should not interfere with the professor’s ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to learn from the instructional program (see the Student Conduct Code, policy D-34.1). Unacceptable or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Students who disrupt the learning environment may be asked to leave class and may be subject to judicial, academic, or other penalties. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including electronic, classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The professor shall have full discretion over what behavior is appropriate/inappropriate in the classroom. Students who do not attend class regularly or who perform poorly on class projects/exams may be referred to the Early Alert Program. This program provides students with recommendations for resources or other assistance available to help SFA students succeed.

Academic integrity
Academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instruction on the components of academic honesty, as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism. Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism.

- Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism.

- Plagiarism is presenting words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one’s own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one’s paper without giving the author due credit.

- Please read the complete policy at http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp.

Any problems with plagiarism or cheating in this course will result in a grade of negative 10% on the assignment/test in question. This policy applies to verbatim plagiarism, mosaic plagiarism, improper citations, missing quotation marks, auto-plagiarism (using your own past work and turning it in for this
course), and copying another student’s work to present as your own. All work must be original, completed on your own, and written specifically for this course. A grade of negative 10% means that not only do you lose all points for the work in question but also lose an additional 10% from your overall grade. Furthermore, use of excessive direct quotations (higher than 40% of your work) will result in a grade of zero on that assignment.

**Withheld grades: Semester grades policy**

> At the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms, the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.

For this course, a grade of WH must be requested by the student, negotiated between the student and professor, and approved by the professor before the final week of classes begins (i.e., before “dead week”). Not all requests will be granted; each request will be taken on a case-by-case basis. For the request to be granted, the student must have completed all work prior to the WH request and must be passing the course with a grade of a B or higher. If the WH is approved, all work for that WH must be completed by the end of the first week of the following academic semester.

**Students with disabilities**
To obtain disability-related accommodations, alternate formats, and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS) as early as possible in the semester. ODS is located in the Human Services building, room 325; their number is 468-3004 (or 468-1004 for TDD). Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to [http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/](http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/). For this course, if you are registered with ODS and have an accommodation and/or auxiliary aids, you need to speak with me during office hours about the accommodation/aids. Please do this as soon as possible during the semester.
Course Schedule: August 24-December 11

Notes on reading the course schedule:
- The number in front of the topic represents the corresponding chapter of *Grammar in Real Life* that you need to read.
- In the due dates column, *WQ* stands for “weekly quizzes,” and *U* for “unit work.”
- Along with these assignments, you will have biweekly activity assignments from the associated chapter(s), which will be assigned within the weekly modules on D2L.
- All assignments are due before 11:59 p.m. Central on the date listed below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Reading/topic</th>
<th>Due</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8/24-8/28</td>
<td>1. Linguistics</td>
<td>WQ1 (Thu., 8/27)</td>
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<td>2. Grammar</td>
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<td>8/31-9/4</td>
<td>3. Nouns</td>
<td>WQ2 (Thu., 9/3)</td>
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<td>4. Noun phrases</td>
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<td>9/7-9/11</td>
<td>5. Adjectives</td>
<td>WQ3 (Thu., 9/10)</td>
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<td>6. Preposition phrases &amp; post-modifiers</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/14-9/18</td>
<td>7. Verbs</td>
<td>U1: Introductory elements (Tue., 9/15)</td>
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<td>8. TMAV</td>
<td>WQ4 (Thu., 9/17)</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/28-10/2</td>
<td>10. Finite dependent clauses</td>
<td>WQ6 (Thu., 10/1)</td>
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<td>10/5-10/9</td>
<td>11. Semantic roles</td>
<td>WQ7 (Thu., 10/8)</td>
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<td>10/12-10/16</td>
<td>12. Verb valency</td>
<td>WQ8 (Thu., 10/15)</td>
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<td>10/19-10/23</td>
<td>13. Illocutionary force</td>
<td>U2: Basic clause structure (Tue., 10/20)</td>
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<td>WQ9 (Thu., 10/22)</td>
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<td>10/26-10/30</td>
<td>14. Gapped structures</td>
<td>WQ10 (Thu., 10/29)</td>
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<td>11/2-11/6</td>
<td>15. Embedding</td>
<td>WQ11 (Thu., 11/5)</td>
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<td>11/9-11/13</td>
<td>16. Participial phrases</td>
<td>WQ12 (Thu., 11/12)</td>
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<td>11/16-11/20</td>
<td>17. Infinitive phrases</td>
<td>WQ13 (Thu., 11/27)</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/23-11/27</td>
<td>THANKSGIVING BREAK</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/30-12/4</td>
<td>18. Writing process</td>
<td>WQ14 (Thu., 12/3)</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/7-12/11</td>
<td></td>
<td>U3: More advanced structures (Tue., 12/8)</td>
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