

**Carleton University
Winter 2023
Department of English**

ENGL 1008A: English Grammar: Fundamentals

Prerequisites: None

Preclusions: None

Format: Blended

Tuesday class: ASYNCHRONOUS lecture to be posted by 11:35 am

Thursday class: SYNCHRONOUS lecture (11:35 am – 12:55 pm)

Professor Wallace

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Phone: 520-2600 ext. 1039

Online office Hours are by appointment via Zoom.

Important note:

For information on deadlines for withdrawal from courses, please consult the Academic Year section of the Undergraduate Calendar (<https://calendar.carleton.ca/academicyear/>).

*This syllabus is subject to change until the first day of term.

The information in this course outline may be subject to change in response to evolving public health guidelines related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

PLEASE NOTE: This is not an ESL course. Students are expected to be fluent in English. For ESL courses please see: <https://carleton.ca/slals/esl/>

Studying English grammar can benefit students in several ways. A firm grasp of fundamentals can give you a better understanding of the nature (and even the peculiarities) of the English language. A better understanding of these phenomena can, in turn, give you the tools to be a better and more confident communicator in both written and spoken English.

The study of grammar is commonly divided into “descriptive” and “prescriptive” approaches. “Descriptive” approaches to the topic describe how a language actually functions across the totality of contexts in which it is used. “Prescriptive” approaches prescribe standards of correctness. This course strives to balance these approaches in an attempt to provide students with a firm command of the fundamentals of English grammar and grammatical terminology. Some attention to the origins and history of

grammatical inquiry and of the English language will sharpen our understanding of the parts of speech, syntax (word order), morphology (word forms), semantics (word meanings), and punctuation. Throughout the course, our attention will be on the basic unit of the sentence.

Students who complete the course will gain a clear understanding of how English “works.” They will also be able to work with traditional grammatical terminology, diagnose and correct errors, and express themselves in writing with clarity and precision.

Format: This “blended” course has been divided into 13 units. Each unit will combine asynchronous and synchronous elements.

- Every TUESDAY, I will post on Brightspace a recording of an ASYNCHRONOUS lecture before 11:35 am.
- Every THURSDAY, I will deliver a SYNCHRONOUS lecture from 11:35 am – 12:55 pm. The synchronous lecture will take place via Zoom.
 - Please note that the SYNCHRONOUS TUESDAY LECTURE will always be recorded and made available via Brightspace.
 - In practice, this means that you can do the entire course asynchronously if that suits your schedule and / or preferred learning style. Otherwise, you should always be able to count on a live lecture on Thursdays.
 - If, however, scheduling conflicts or exceptional circumstances (e.g., illness) arise, I may have to record one or more asynchronous Zoom lectures in place of the expected synchronous sessions. In such cases, the asynchronous Zoom recordings will still be posted on Brightspace.

Learning Outcomes

Students who complete this course will be able to:

- distinguish between descriptive and prescriptive approaches to grammar
- explain how the history of the English language shapes the language’s grammar
- use precise grammatical terminology for the parts of speech
- recognize and diagram a wide range of sentence patterns and grammatical structures
- identify, produce, and punctuate simple, complex, and compound sentences according to academic / professional standards of speech
- diagnose and correct common errors in their own writing and in the writing of others

Required Texts

This course will run parallel to material in the following required text:

Cindy L. Vitto, *Grammar by Diagram: Understanding English Grammar Through Traditional Sentence Diagramming*, 3rd ed. Peterborough: Broadview Press, 2006. [9781554814534]

You can purchase this text directly from Broadview Press (either in print or as a digital PDF) at the following link: <https://broadviewpress.com/product/grammar-by-diagram-third-edition/#tab-description>

*Please note that copies of this text will also be available at Haven Books 43 Seneca Street, Ottawa, ON, K1S 4X2, (613) 730-9888: www.havenbooks.ca.

Broadview Press publishes a very helpful companion to this textbook: *Grammar By Diagram Workbook*. You may find this useful, and the two books can be purchased as a bundle for a discount via the Broadview website. You do not, need to purchase the workbook, but if you want to purchase the textbook / workbook bundle, you can find it at this link: <https://broadviewpress.com/product/grammar-by-diagram-package/#tab-description>

Required Evaluations

- 5% Early feedback quiz (via Brightspace): 19 January
- 30% Test 1 (via Brightspace): 2-3 March
- 30% Test 2 (via Brightspace): 23-24 March
- 35% Final Exam (via Brightspace): exam period

Please note that students must complete all course requirements in order to be eligible to pass the course.

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by the instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

PLAGIARISM

The University Academic Integrity Policy defines plagiarism as “presenting, whether intentionally or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.” This includes reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else’s published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one’s own without proper citation or reference to the original source. Examples of sources from which the ideas, expressions of ideas or works of others may be drawn from include but are not limited to: books, articles, papers, literary compositions and phrases, performance compositions, chemical compounds, artworks, laboratory reports, research results, calculations and the results of calculations, diagrams, constructions, computer reports, computer code/software, material on the internet and/or conversations.

Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to:

- any submission prepared in whole or in part, by someone else;

- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, paraphrased material, algorithms, formulae, scientific or mathematical concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another's data or research findings without appropriate acknowledgement;
- submitting a computer program developed in whole or in part by someone else, with or without modifications, as one's own; and
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another's work and/or failing to use quotations marks.

Plagiarism is a serious offence that cannot be resolved directly by the course's instructor. The Associate Dean of the Faculty conducts a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They can include a final grade of "F" for the course.

Statement on Pandemic Measures

It is important to remember that COVID is still present in Ottawa. The situation can change at any time and the risks of new variants and outbreaks are very real. There are [a number of actions you can take](#) to lower your risk and the risk you pose to those around you including being vaccinated, wearing a mask, staying home when you're sick, washing your hands and maintaining proper respiratory and cough etiquette.

Feeling sick? Remaining vigilant and not attending work or school when sick or with symptoms is critically important. If you feel ill or exhibit COVID-19 symptoms do not come to class or campus. If you feel ill or exhibit symptoms while on campus or in class, please leave campus immediately. In all situations, you should follow Carleton's [symptom reporting protocols](#).

Masks: Masks are no longer mandatory in university buildings and facilities. However, we continue to recommend masking when indoors, particularly if physical distancing cannot be maintained. We are aware that personal preferences regarding optional mask use will vary greatly, and we ask that we all show consideration and care for each other during this transition.

Vaccines: While proof of vaccination is no longer required to access campus or participate in in-person Carleton activities, it may become necessary for the University to bring back proof of vaccination requirements on short notice if the situation and public health advice changes. Students are strongly encouraged to get a full course of vaccination, including booster doses as soon as they are eligible and submit their booster dose information in [cuScreen](#) as soon as possible. Please note that Carleton cannot guarantee that it will be able to offer virtual or hybrid learning options for those who are unable to attend the campus.

All members of the Carleton community are required to follow requirements and guidelines regarding health and safety which may change from time to time. For the most recent information about Carleton's COVID-19 response and health and safety

requirements please see the [University's COVID-19 website](#) and review the [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#). Should you have additional questions after reviewing, please contact covidinfo@carleton.ca.

Requests for Academic Accommodations

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows:

Pregnancy: write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For accommodation regarding a formally scheduled final exam, you must complete the Pregnancy Accommodation Form ([click here](#)).

Religious obligation: write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details [click here](#).

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally scheduled exam (if applicable).

Survivors of Sexual Violence

As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working, and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated, and where survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per Carleton's Sexual Violence Policy. For more information about the services available at the university and to obtain information about sexual violence and/or support, visit:

<https://carleton.ca/equity/sexual-assault-support-services>

Accommodation for Student Activities

Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and for the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom experience. Reasonable accommodation will be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. Write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible

after the need for accommodation is known to exist. <https://carleton.ca/senate/wp-content/uploads/Accommodation-for-Student-Activities-1.pdf>

Course Schedule

UNIT 1: January 10 (asynchronous) and 12 (synchronous)

- Introduction and overview; course business; history of grammar; history of the English language
- Read Introduction to Vitto's *Grammar by Diagram*

UNIT 2: January 17 (asynchronous) and 19 (synchronous)

- The Eight Parts of Speech
- Read Chapters 2 and 3 of Vitto's *Grammar by Diagram*
- **The Early Feedback Quiz (15 minutes) is to be completed on Brightspace on 19 January before 11:59 pm.**

UNIT 3: January 24 (asynchronous) and 26 (synchronous)

- The Eight Parts of Speech
- Read Chapters 2 and 3 of Vitto's *Grammar by Diagram*

UNIT 4: January 31 (asynchronous) and February 2 (synchronous)

- Recognizing and Diagramming Basic Sentence Patterns (1)
- Read Chapter 4 of Vitto's *Grammar by Diagram*

UNIT 5: February 7 (asynchronous) and 9 (synchronous)

- Recognizing and Diagramming Basic Sentence Patterns (2)
- Read Chapter 5 of Vitto's *Grammar by Diagram*

UNIT 6: February 14 (asynchronous) and 16 (synchronous)

- Compound Structures and Compound Sentences
- Read Chapter 6 of Vitto's *Grammar by Diagram*

FEBRUARY 20-24: WINTER BREAK, NO CLASSES

UNIT 7: February 28 (asynchronous) and March 2 (synchronous)

- Complex Sentences with Adverb and Relative Clauses
- Read Chapter 7 of Vitto's *Grammar by Diagram*
- **Test 1 is to be completed on Brightspace before 5:00 pm on 3 March. Details about the format and timing of the test will be discussed during the first two weeks of class.**

UNIT 8: March 7 (asynchronous) and 9 (synchronous)

- Complex Sentences with Noun Clauses
- Read Chapter 8 of Vitto's *Grammar by Diagram*

UNIT 9: March 14 (asynchronous) and 16 (synchronous)

- Verbals (aka Non-finite Verbs)
- Read Chapter 9 of Vitto's *Grammar by Diagram*

UNIT 10: March 21 (asynchronous) and 23 (synchronous)

- Verbs (aka Finite Verbs)
- Read Chapter 11 of Vitto's *Grammar by Diagram*
- Test 2 is to be completed on Brightspace before 5:00 pm on 24 March. Details about the format and timing of the test will be discussed during the first week after the Winter Break.

UNIT 11: March 28 (asynchronous) and 30 (synchronous)

- Crafting Better Sentences
- Read Chapter 10 of Vitto's *Grammar by Diagram*

UNIT 12: April 4 (asynchronous) and 6 (synchronous)

- Pronouns and Punctuation
- Read Chapters 12 and 14 of Vitto's *Grammar by Diagram*

UNIT 13: April 11 (synchronous)

- Conclusion and review
- No new readings

*A Final Exam of three hours will take place during the formally scheduled exam period.