

**Carleton University**  
**Winter 2024 Preliminary Course Outline**  
**Department of English**

**ENGL 1008: English Grammar: Fundamentals**

**Tuesday/Thursday 1:00–2:30**  
**Location: Online (Synchronous)**

**Instructor: Prof. Robin Norris**  
**Email: [robin.norris@carleton.ca](mailto:robin.norris@carleton.ca)**

**\*\*\*This is a preliminary syllabus only—texts and assignments are subject to change. A complete version will be available closer to the start of the term.\*\*\***

**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/>**

**Course description:** A practical and intensive overview of English grammar designed for students who want to improve their understanding of grammar for their own writing and reading. This is not an ESL course.

ENGL 1008 will introduce students to fundamental concepts and terminology used in the study of grammar, i.e. syntax (word order) and morphology (word forms). Students will learn grammar through traditional sentence diagramming, which can be a helpful tool for those who learn visually or learn by doing. We will also discuss descriptive and prescriptive approaches to grammar, confusion over what *grammar* actually means, the historical roots of many perceived errors, and how to avoid common problems of usage.

**Learning Outcomes:**

- Students will understand descriptive/prescriptive approaches to grammar and the difference between grammar and usage.
- Students will learn and be able to identify the eight parts of speech.
- Students will learn how to decline a personal pronoun and conjugate a verb.
- Students will learn irregular verb forms and commonly confused words.
- Students will learn traditional sentence diagramming.

**Texts:**

Cindy L. Vitto, *Grammar By Diagram: Understanding English Grammar Through Traditional Sentence Diagramming*, 3rd ed. Peterborough: Broadview Press, 2022.

Cindy L. Vitto, *Grammar By Diagram: Workbook*, 3rd ed. Peterborough: Broadview Press, 2022.

**Evaluation:**

*Students must complete all course requirements in order to pass the course.*

Early feedback quiz	5
Test 1	30
Test 2	30
Final exam	35