

Carleton University
Winter 2025 Preliminary Course Outline
Department of English

ENGL 1008A
English Grammar: Fundamentals

Prerequisites: None
Preclusions: None

Instructor: Prof. Robin Norris
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*****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.*****

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 traditional sentence diagramming.
- Students will learn and be able to identify the eight parts of speech.
- Students will learn irregular verb forms and commonly confused words.
- Students will learn how to decline a personal pronoun and conjugate a verb.

Texts

These two books are on order at the campus bookstore and available from the publisher, Broadview Press.

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

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

Evaluation

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