

Carleton University
Winter 2026 Preliminary Course Outline
Department of English

ENGL 1008A: *English Grammar: Fundamentals*

Instructor: *Grant Williams*
Email: *grant_williams@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. ******

Course description:

This "online scheduled" course is a practical and intensive overview of English grammar. This is not an ESL course.

Studying English grammar has many benefits. It can help you to better understand the nature of the English language and thus can make you a more precise and careful reader. And in turn this knowledge can give you the tools to be a better and more confident communicator in both written and spoken English. To gain a clear comprehension of how English "works," students will learn how to apply traditional grammatical terminology and to diagnose and correct grammatical errors.

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of the course all students will be able to:

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

Texts: a grammar textbook yet to be determined

Evaluation: on-line multiple choice questions tests and an in-person final exam