

THEORY AND PRACTICE OF LANGUAGE— GRAMMAR AND USAGE

English 325

Course Objectives and Procedures

Theory and Practice of Language—Grammar and Usage is a required sophomore/junior level course for all English majors. This class assumes students already know the English language because they are native speakers and are comfortable with language arts—they speak and write sentences grammatically well. Martha Kolln and Robert Funk claim, “Knowing a language and knowing about a language are two very different kinds of knowledge.” On the other hand, this class also assumes students are less familiar *about* English and are uncertain how to discuss what makes those sentences grammatical. Therefore, the focus of this class is to help English majors understand and feel more comfortable with the terminology, principles, issues, and applications of language in their everyday lives.

□ Objectives of English 325

The objectives of English 325 are to help you understand and demonstrate

- the strengths and limitations of traditional grammar
- the contemporary grammars that describe English “structurally,” that is, according to the form and function of sentence parts
- the characteristics of Edited American English, the version of English that has become the standard for written public discourse
- the application of grammatical principles to effective writing and editing
- an overview of significant events in the evolution of British, American, and global English.

□ Overview of English 325

English 325 has the following major components:

- **Grammar.** We will focus on traditional and structural grammar (diagramming). Grammar allows us to identify sentence structures, their individual parts, and their relationships. Cindy Vitto’s *Grammar by Design* is our grammar text. Quiz for each chapter—20 points each (260 points)
- **Mechanics.** We will review traditional mechanics and punctuation rules such as subject/verb agreement and commas. Eight quizzes—10 points each and one exam (180 points)

- **Personal Grammar Workbook.** Each student will create a personal grammar workbook with rules/explanations, exercises, and answers. (150 points)
- **Editing Portfolio.** We will apply principles of grammar and mechanics through editing exercises to demonstrate Edited American English. (100 points)
- **Language History.** We will gain an overview understanding of events, nations, and individuals influencing the development of the English language. Quiz for every two chapters—15 points each (180 points)

□ Quizzes

English 325 has three series of quizzes:

- Grammar quizzes on each chapter of Vitto’s *Grammar by Design*
- Mechanics quizzes on mechanics and punctuation rules
- Language history quizzes on Bragg’s *The Adventure of English*.

All quizzes for the week are open Monday (1:00 a.m.) through Saturday (midnight).

Quizzes can be retaken any time during that week—the highest score counts.

□ Exams

English 325 has five exams:

- Four mini-exams (100 points each—400 points)
- One mechanics exam (100 points)

LATE ASSIGNMENTS
NOT ACCEPTED

□ Conduct of the Class

The basic pattern of the course is one of (1) *theory*, and (2) *practice*. The course of theory are the texts supplemented by materials furnished by the instructor. The theory of each assignment is thoroughly discussed in informal classroom sessions. Included in these discussions are numerous examples of the application of each principle to grammar and usage.

□ Texts

Bragg, Melvyn. *The Adventure of English: The Biography of a Language*. New York: Arcade, 2004.

Vitto, Cindy L. *Grammar by Diagram*. 2nd ed. Buffalo, NY: Broadview Press, 2006.

A college desk dictionary recommended

□ Grading and Evaluation

Grades consist of exercises, daily preparation, quizzes, and exams. Most often the number grade follows the breakdown below

A	=	95%	C	=	75%
A-	=	92%	C-	=	72%
B+	=	88%	D+	=	68%
B	=	85%	D	=	65%
B-	=	82%	D-	=	62%
C+	=	78%	F	=	59%

The teacher reserves the right to slightly alter the number points depending on the student's performance.

□ Teacher Conferencing

Most student questions and concerns are handled in the classroom through class or individual discussion. Students may schedule an appointment with the teacher for more extended conferencing.

□ Attendance Requirements

I take roll every class period. The student has the responsibility to attend class and to be prepared for class. If the student misses class, the student should contact the teacher out of courtesy via office phone-mail or email **prior** to class.

This is a highly interactive course. The success of this course and your individual success depends on your regular presence and promptness, your thorough preparation for class, and your active participation within class. You may have **three class absences without a grade penalty**.

Please note: I make no distinction between "excused" and "unexcused" absence. You are responsible for saving your absence leave to accommodate unexpected illness or personal / family need.

Excessive absence will result in *deduction from final average of 1 percentage point per class hour of absence over the limit*. If you miss more than three class periods, you will not be able to earn an A in the course. If you miss more than five class periods, the highest grade you can earn in the course is a C. If you miss six or more classes, you will earn an F in the course.

Three tardies or leaving early equals one absence.

At the end of the semester, if you have **perfect attendance**, you will have a **bonus of 1 percentage point added to your final average**.

□ E-mail

Students must have access to BYU-Idaho e-mail. If students prefer other email servers, students should arrange with their carriers to forward their campus email directly to them.

□ Academic Honesty

"BYU-Idaho students should seek to be totally honest in all their dealings. They should complete their own work and be evaluated for that work. They should avoid academic dishonesty and misconduct in all its forms, including but not limited to plagiarism, fabrication or falsification, cheating, and other academic misconduct." (*BYU-Idaho Catalog, 2010-2011*, p. 68. See catalog for full discussion of Academic Dishonesty, pp. 68-69.)

This course will adhere to procedures for handling incidents of academic dishonesty found in the *BYU-Idaho Catalog, 2010-2011*.

□ Special Limitations

To accommodate students with special learning, physical, emotional, mental, social, or other limitations, the student must notify the teacher the first week of class. By law, BYU-Idaho is

only required to assist those students who make these issues known during the first week.

❑ **Caveat**

The teacher reserves the right to make changes in course content and policy at any time during the semester or term.

**THEORY AND PRACTICE OF LANGUAGE
ENGLISH 325:1
WINTER 2011**

Jan	5 W	Introduction to English 325
	7 F	Vitto, Ch. 1, "The Eight Parts of Speech"
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Lesson 1—Parts of Speech; Commas		
	10 M	Vitto, Ch. 1, "The Eight Parts of Speech"
	12 W	Bragg, Ch. 1, "The Common Tongue" Bragg, Ch. 2, "The Great Escape"
	14 F	Personal Grammar Workbook Nouns Pronouns—Personal pronouns Commas (Quiz)
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Lesson 2—Be and Linking Verbs		
	17 M	Human Rights Day (no class)
	19 W	Vitto, Ch. 2 "Basic Sentence Patterns for <i>Be</i> and Linking Verbs"
	21 F	Bragg, Ch. 3, "Conquest" Bragg, Ch. 4 "Holding On" Personal Grammar Workbook Pronouns—Impersonal pronouns Proofreading for Comma Usage
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Lesson 3—Intransitive and Transitive Verbs; Semicolons and Colons		
	24 M	Vitto, Ch. 3, "Basic Sentence Patterns for Intransitive and Transitive Verbs"
	26 W	Bragg, Ch. 5, "The Speech of Kings" Bragg, Ch. 6, "Chaucer"
	28 T	Personal Grammar Workbook Intransitive and Transitive Verbs Semicolons and Colons (Quiz) Proofreading for Sentence Structure
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Lesson 4—Adjectives and Adverbs		
	31 M	Vitto, Ch. 4, "Usage Problems Associated with Adjectives and Adverbs"
Feb.	2 W	Bragg, Ch. 7, "God's English" Bragg, Ch. 8, "English and the Language of the State"

4 F	Mini-Exam #1 Personal Grammar Workbook Adjectives Adverbs Proofreading for Spelling and Word Usage	
	Lesson 5—Compound Structures; Punctuation	Lesson 9—Verbs and Pronouns
7 M	Vitto, Ch. 5, “Combining and Expanding Patterns: Compound Structures”	7 M Vitto, Ch. 9, “Verbs”
9 W	Bragg, Ch. 9, “William Tyndale’s Bible” Bragg, Ch. 10, “A Renaissance of Words”	9 W Bragg, Ch. 17, “The Proper Way to Talk” Bragg, Ch. 18, “Steam, Streets, and Slang”
11 F	Personal Grammar Workbook Other Punctuation (Quiz) Prepositions Proofreading for Other Punctuation	11 F Personal Grammar Workbook Pronouns and Antecedents (Quiz) Personal Pronouns (Quiz) Proofreading for Plurals, Possessives, and Word Division
	Lesson 6—Complex Sentences with Noun Clauses; Capitalization	Lesson 10—Verbals
14 M	Vitto, Ch. 6, “Combining and Expanding Patterns: Complex Sentences with Noun Clauses”	14 M Vitto, Ch. 10, “Verbals”
16 W	Bragg, Ch. 11, “Preparing the Ground” Bragg, Ch. 12, “Shakespeare’s English”	16 W Bragg, Ch. 19, “Indian Takeover” Bragg, Ch. 20, “The West Indies”
18 F	Personal Grammar Workbook Capitalization (Quiz) Conjunctions Proofreading for Capitalization	18 F Mini-Exam #3 Personal Grammar Workbook Direct Objects Indirect Objects
	Lesson 7—Adverbs and Relative Clauses	Lesson 11—Verbs and Verbals
21 M	President’s Day (no class)	21 M “Vitto, Ch. 11, “Usage Problems Associated with Verbs and Verbals”
23 W	Vitto, Ch. 7, “Combining and Expanding Patterns: Complex Sentences with Adverb and Relative Clauses and the Compound-Complex Sentence” Bragg, Ch. 13, “My America” Bragg, Ch. 14, “Wild West Woods”	
25 F	Mini-Exam #2 Proofreading for Sentence Structure	
	Lesson 8—Case and Agreement	
28 M	Vitto, Ch. 8, “Usage Problems of Case, Agreement, and Consistency”	
Mar 2 W	Bragg, Ch. 15, “Sold Down the River” Bragg, Ch. 16, “Mastering the Language”	
4 F	Personal Grammar Workbook Subject and Verb Agreement (Quiz) Possessive Nouns (Quiz) Proofreading for Grammar	

<p>23 W Bragg, Ch. 21, "Advance Australia" Bragg, Ch. 22, "Warts and All"</p> <p>25 F Personal Grammar Workbook Misused Verbs Subject Complements Editing for Clarity, Conciseness, and Completeness</p> <hr style="width: 100px; margin-left: 0;"/> <p>Lesson 12—Punctuation, Sentence Transformations</p> <p>28 M Vitto, Ch. 12, "Punctuation and Capitalization" Vitto, Ch. 13, "Sentence Transformation"</p> <p>30 W Bragg, Ch. 23, "All Over the World" Bragg, Ch. 24, "And Now. . . ?"</p>	<p>Apr 1 F Personal Grammar Workbook Quotation marks/Italics Active and passive voice Hyphens Editing for Language Use</p> <hr style="width: 100px; margin-left: 0;"/> <p>4 M Personal Grammar Workbook Due Editing Portfolio Due Review</p> <p>6 W Mini-Exam #4</p> <p>8 F Final (2:00-3:30)</p>
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