

Second Language Studies T510
Modern English Grammar
Section 2836
Fall, 2017

Instructor

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Class meetings

TR 11:15 am – 12:30 pm
Ballantine Hall 135

Office hours

TR 1:30–3:00 pm

Description

Modern English Grammar provides an introduction to the syntactic structure of the English language and to contemporary methods of linguistic analysis. Concepts to be covered include word classes, phrase structure, clause types, and syntactic transformations.

Textbook

Radford, Andrew. 1988. *Transformational grammar: A first course*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. (TG)
Additional readings are available on Canvas.

Course requirements

1. *Class attendance is required.* The course will focus on concepts and methods of analysis that we will develop through class discussion of readings and problem sets, plus additional data that will be introduced in lectures. Thus, class attendance is essential.
2. *Weekly reading assignments* from the text for the course, plus occasional additional readings.
3. *Eight problem sets.* These problem sets are intended to give you hands-on experience with linguistic analysis. Papers should be turned in via Canvas in .docx format.
4. *Class participation.* Students should feel free to ask questions at any time. Questions and comments are not interruptions. They are essential to making the class run. Please speak up and take part in class discussions.
5. *Midterm and final exams.* The midterm exam will be an in-class test. The final exam will be given at the regularly scheduled time: Thurs., Dec. 14, 12:30–2:30 pm, in our regular room.

Policy regarding late papers

All homework papers are to be turned in on Canvas on the assigned day. Late papers will be assessed a penalty of a 5 points per day late (including weekend days).

Grading

Problem sets:	60 %
Participation	10
Midterm:	15
Final:	<u>15</u>
	100 %

Course plan and readings (some dates may change)

1. The goals of syntactic analysis (Aug. 22–29)
TG, ch. 1.
Gliedman, John. 1983. Interview: Noam Chomsky. *Omni* 6:112–18, 171–74.
Chomsky, Noam. 1965. *Aspects of the theory of syntax*, 3–30. Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press. [Translations of passages in French will be provided.]

Problem set 1 due Tues., Aug. 29.

2. Syntactic structure: Types of evidence (Aug. 31–Sept. 7)
TG, ch. 2.

Problem set 2 due Thurs., Sept. 7.

3. Phrase structure trees and how to get them (Sept. 12–21)
TG, ch. 3.

Problem set 3 due Thurs., Sept. 14.

Problem set 4 due Thurs., Sept. 21.

4. The structure of noun phrases (Sept. 26–Oct. 5)
TG, ch. 4.

Problem set 5 due Thurs., Oct. 5.

5. Phrases of other categories (Oct. 10–17)
TG, ch. 5.
Payne, John, Rodney Huddleston, and Geoffrey K. Pullum. 2010. The distribution and category status of adjectives and adverbs. *Word Structure* 3: 31–81.

Problem set 6 due, Tues., Oct. 17.

Review session for the midterm exam: Thurs., Oct. 19.

MIDTERM EXAM: TUES., OCT. 24.

6. Clauses (Oct. 29–Nov. 7)
TG, ch. 6.
Pullum, Geoffrey K. 1981. The category status of infinitival *to*. *Working Papers in Linguistics* 6, 55–72. Seattle: University of Washington.

7. Transformations (Nov. 9–16)
TG, ch. 8.

Problem set 7 due Thurs., Nov. 16.

THANKSGIVING BREAK — NOV. 19–26

8. *Wh*-Movement (Nov. 28–Dec. 4)
TG, ch. 9, pp. 462–474, 499–515.

Problem set 8 due Thurs., Nov. 30.

Review session for the final exam: Thurs., Dec. 7.

FINAL EXAM: THURS., DEC. 14, 12:30–2:30 PM, IN OUR REGULAR CLASSROOM.