

Targeting the Verb Phrase – AN11002BA/AN18004BA/AN1103OMA
2-credit seminar
Spring 2021

Course Description:

This course is aimed at improving students' knowledge of English grammar. We will cover various finite and non-finite clauses, the difference between tense and aspect as well as active and passive voice. In addition, the form and functions of modal auxiliaries and conditional clauses will also be explored. We will discuss chapters from Rodney Huddleston's and Geoffrey K. Pullum's book titled *A Student's Introduction to English Grammar*, which takes a descriptive approach to grammar, and follow it up with various exercises and plenty of discussion.

Textbooks:

Chalker, Sylvia. 1992. *A Student's English Grammar Workbook*. Harlow: Longman.
Gethin, Hugh. 1992. *Grammar in Context. Proficiency Level English*. London: Nelson.
Huddleston, Rodney and Geoffrey K. Pullum. 2005. *A Student's Introduction to English Grammar*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Practice:

Each class will be structured in a way that students are provided with a brief description of various grammatical patterns to be discussed in class and ample opportunity to see how native speakers use those patterns in practice. Handouts for most classes will be posted on UD's e-learning platform. Students will be informed of the availability of any new class material via email.

Homework assignments are an essential component of this course. Students' familiarity with these assignments will be tested regularly throughout the semester.

Students will also be expected to produce a portfolio of eight grammar task sheets based on newspaper articles. Each task sheet must be typed and they should include at least eight questions (e.g. multiple choice cloze, open cloze, error correction questions) illustrating the grammatical phenomena we discuss throughout the course. A key to the exercises should also be created and included in the portfolio along with the newspaper articles. Sample exercises will be provided in the first class. The deadline for the electronic submission of the portfolio is Wednesday, May 12th.

Grading:

The final grade will be based on occasional quizzes (5%), a portfolio of grammar exercises (5%), a midterm test (40%) and an endterm test (50%). Retake opportunities will not be available for the quizzes and the two major tests.

The grading scale in this course will be as follows:

91% - 100% - 5
81% - 90% - 4
71% - 80% - 3
61% - 70% - 2
0% - 60% - 1

Serious grammatical errors will also be taken into account in the calculation of the final grade on any written work.

Attendance:

No more than three absences are allowed, illness included.

Weekly Syllabus

	Class content	Homework
Week 1	Introduction: Standard English, descriptive and prescriptive approaches to grammar, grammatical terms and definitions, irregular verbs	SIEG: pp. 1-9
Week 2	Verbs: Verb inflection, finite and non-finite clauses, tense and aspect in English	SIEG: pp. 29-37, 44-48 SEGW: pp. 11-15, 21-23
Week 3	Verbs: The perfect and the distinction between the perfective and imperfective aspects	SIEG: pp. 42-44, 48-53 SEGW: pp. 23-28
Week 4	Modal auxiliaries: The epistemic vs. deontic contrast, dynamic interpretations of modal auxiliaries	SIEG: pp. 53-56 SEGW: pp. 30-35
Week 5	Modal auxiliaries: Different ways of expressing futurity in English	SIEG: 56-58 SEGW: pp. 28-30
Week 6	Rounding-off: tense, aspect, and modal auxiliaries	GC: pp. 10-25, 117-138
Week 7	Conditional clauses	SIEG: pp. 58-59 SEGW: pp. 115-116, 126-127 GC: 25-38

Week 8	Midterm Test	
Week 9	Consultation Week – No class	
Week 10	Non-finite clauses: the form and the functions of non-finite clauses	SIEG: pp. 204-214 GC: pp. 100-109
Week 11	Non-finite clauses: verbless clauses	GC: pp. 109-116 SEGW: pp. 127-128
Week 12	Information packaging in the clause: passive clauses	SIEG: 238-247 GC: pp. 154-163
Week 13	Review	
Week 14	Endterm Test	Portfolio due at 8 pm on May 12

Place and Time

This course will be taught on Webex on Wednesdays (8:00-9:40 a.m.) and Thursdays (10:00-11:40 a.m.).

Contact

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Virtual office hours on Webex: Wednesday 4:00-5:00 p.m.

Thursday 1:00-2:00 p.m.